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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

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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. 1

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS INVOLVED

1. (SBU) Nine Amcits, including two journalists, were reportedly onboard the first two ships to dock in the Israeli port of Ashdod; three are scheduled to be deported from Ben Gurion Airport the morning of June 1. The remaining individuals are held at a detention facility near Beer Sheeva. The MFA will provide consular access to Amcits the morning of June 1. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
2. (SBU) One Amcit reportedly received minor injuries and was treated at Barzilay Hospital, but was not aboard the Turkish vessel, MAVI MARMARA, where confrontations with the IDF occurred. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
3. (SBU) The MFA presumes a number of unaccounted Amcits are on the MAVI MARMARA, which has yet to dock. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
4. (SBU) The dead have been taken to a forensic lab, but it may be several hours before they are identified. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

TURKEY APPEALS TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

5. (SBU) Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu said Israel treated international aid workers as "combatants," and "the peace process has been suffocated by a single act of aggression." Turkey is seeking a UNSC Presidential Statement demanding: Israel apologize to countries and individuals harmed in the incident; an "urgent inquiry" be conducted by the UN; international legal action against those responsible; immediate repatriation of the dead and wounded; delivery of all ship cargo to Gaza; an end to the Gaza blockade. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

GAZA REACTION

6. (SBU) Hamas called for a three-day strike in the Palestinian Territories, but has not so far enforced it, even in Gaza. Embassy contacts suggest the apparent lack of enthusiasm for protests reflected scant hope for the future in Gaza, especially regarding the international response to the current situation. Others, however, saw initiatives like the

"Free Gaza" flotilla as intended to support only Hamas and its beneficiaries. (Jerusalem 922)

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA REACTION

7. (U) United Nations: U.N. Secretary-General Ban ki-Moon said "It is vital that there is a full investigation to determine exactly how this bloodshed took place. I believe Israel must urgently provide a full explanation," he said. (Reuters)

8. (U) United Kingdom: Foreign Secretary William Hague: "I deplore the loss of life during the interception of the Gaza Flotilla... We have consistently advised against attempting to access Gaza in this way, because of the risks involved. But at the same time, there is a clear need for Israel to act with restraint and in line with international obligations..." (Reuters)

9. (U) Germany: Government spokesman Ulrich Wilhelm: "The German government is shocked by events in the international waters by Gaza... Every German government supports unconditionally Israel's right to self defense," said Wilhelm, but added that Israeli actions should correspond to what he described as the "basic principle" of proportionality. (Reuters)

10. (U) European Union: High Representative Catherine Ashton: "expresses her deep regret at the news of loss of life and violence and extends her sympathies to families of the dead and wounded," said a spokesman for Ashton. "On behalf of the European Union she demands a full enquiry about the circumstances in which this happened... The continued policy of closure is unacceptable and politically counter-productive. She calls for an immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of the crossing for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza." (Reuters)

11. (U) Egypt: "President Hosni Mubarak condemns Israel's excessive and unjustified use of force against innocent civilians," state news agency MENA said, adding that Mubarak stressed Egypt's support of Gaza's Palestinians. (Reuters)

12. (U) Palestinian Territories: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared three days of official mourning for the dead and said, "What Israel has committed on board the Freedom Flotilla was a massacre." (Reuters)

13. (U) Saudi Arabia: The cabinet declared, "This attack is an act of hostility that reflects inhumane practices that defy the whole world ... and the insistence to starve the Palestinian people ... and kill innocent people." (Reuters)

14. (U) Arab League: Secretary-General Amr Moussa called

for an emergency meeting to discuss what the body that groups
22 Arab states described as Israel's "terrorist act."
(Reuters)

15. (U) Spain: Secretary of State Diego Lopez Garrido said,
"Spain unequivocally condemns the Israeli attack on the
humanitarian flotilla and it does so as a country and as the
acting president of the EU Council. Spain has summoned the
Israeli ambassador to ask him for explanations of the
attack." (Reuters)

16. (U) Additional updates are available through our
Intellipedia portal on the unclassified system at:
http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010.

17. (U) Minimize considered.
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/01): Israeli naval interdiction "Freedom Fleet Massacre" consumes local media

Main Stories:

-----The three Palestinian dailies lead with news of the

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Israeli "attack" against the Free Gaza Flotilla enroute to Gaza yesterday. The leading headlines accuse Israel of committing a "massacre." Independent daily Al-Ayyam main headline reads "Freedom Fleet Massacre: Nine killed and the world is against Israel." Independent daily Al-Quds main headline reads "An Israeli Massacre against a Humanitarian Freedom Fleet" and quotes the Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan saying the attack represents "state terrorism." Palestinian Authority (PA) official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's leading headline states "Nine martyrs, Mostly Turkish, Killed During Freedom Fleet Massacre."

The main stories focus on the emergency UN Security Council (UNSC) meeting, called at Turkey's request, to discuss the Israeli attack. Al-Ayyam reports that following the 90-minute meeting, members conducted closed-door discussions to try to reach an agreement on a proposed statement condemning the attack. The coverage describes the U.S. reaction as "conservative."

According to the reports, U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Alejandro Wolff stated that the U.S. deeply regretted the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered by those involved in the incident aboard the Gaza-bound ships and that the U.S. is working to ascertain the facts, and expects that the Israeli government will conduct a full and credible investigation. The reports were disparaging of Wolff's criticism of the Flotilla's attempt to break the Gaza siege underscoring Wolff's statement that trying to get assistance in through the sea was "inappropriate."

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu cancelled his meeting with President Obama. According to the report, President Obama requested to know all the details of the Israeli attack. Al-Quds front pages news of President Obama's 15-minute phone call with Netanyahu and his request to know, as soon as possible, all the details of the attack.

The dailies report President Abbas's condemnation of the attack, which he characterized as a "massacre to stop the world from helping our people" and his call for three days of mourning. Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports that the PLO Executive Committee called for those responsible for the "massacre" to be punished and that they should be considered "war criminals." President Abbas will send a delegation from the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee to Gaza to pursue reconciliation. During its weekly cabinet meeting, the PA cabinet condemned the attack and called for ending the internal Palestinian division. Fatah Central Committee issued a statement which stated that the "Israeli crime is an attack against the sovereignty of 30 countries."

Reports in the three dailies note that a general protest will take place in WB Palestinian cities and inside the green line today. According to reports, demonstrations took place yesterday in several Western capitals including London and Brussels.

The dailies report that the Arab League will hold an emergency meeting today to discuss the implications of the "Israeli attack" and the Arab Foreign Ministers are scheduled to meet tomorrow.

The dailies also focused on the statement issued by Prime Minister Fayyad's office yesterday cancelling all "celebratory events"

scheduled during the Palestine Investment Conference June 2-3 in light of the "Israeli crime."

Al-Quds front pages news about the interview of Hamas Political Bureau Chief in Damascus Khaled Mishal with the Guardian published yesterday. According to the interview, Mishal said that the American administration communicates with Hamas but it doesn't have the courage to announce the communications.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front pages news that an American solidarity activist was injured yesterday after participating in a demonstration against the Israeli soldiers near Qalandia checkpoint to protest the Israeli attack against the Flotilla. Maan English reported that the injured woman was American journalist Emily Holow Mobays who sustained an injury to her eye when a "sound bomb" launched to disperse the crowd struck her face. According to these reports and others being circulated on Palestinian cyberspace, the woman was undergoing surgery this morning but was likely to lose the injured eye.

Weekend stories:

Sunday, May 30:

The three dailies front page news that six Palestinians were killed and 16 injured (five critically) on Saturday as a result of the explosion of a gas cylinder inside one of the tunnels near the Egyptian-Palestinian borders in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. Local sources said that the explosion occurred during an attempt to smuggle sensitive agricultural products. According to Hamas sources, Saturday's incident is considered to be the worst since the deaths of four people in April who died when Egyptian soldiers sprayed poisonous gas into the tunnel in which the four were working. Reports note that human rights organizations have documented 150 Palestinian deaths as a result of working in the tunnels.

All three dailies headline news of the second day of ongoing clashes in Silwan between local Palestinian residents and settlers who guard the Beit Yonatan building. According to the reports, six Palestinians and five Israeli soldiers were injured during the confrontations. The Wadi Hilweh Information Center issued a statement confirming that clashes broke out when a group of settlers and their guards attacked some Palestinian children, who were playing in front of their [the children's] homes.

The dailies also reported that two more Palestinian families (Siam and Quneibi families) in Sheikh Jarrah received eviction orders and have 45 days to evacuate. According to the stories, the Nahal Shimon Society previously successfully filed a lawsuit resulting in the eviction of eight other families in Sheikh Jarrah claiming that

the Society had rented the lands before 1948.

The dailies reported on President Abbas's meetings with his Indonesian counterpart during his visit to Indonesia. Abbas is quoted as saying that he informed the Indonesian President of the grave situation in East Jerusalem and Gaza and that the goal of the proximity talks is to establish a Palestinian state. In related news, the dailies quote Fayyad saying, "The PNA is keen on exercising its national duty and role in developing all of the occupied Palestinian territories- We are on the right path towards the ending of occupation."

The dailies reported on the preparations of the Gaza Freedom Fleet to travel to Gaza today and Israel's threats to ban the fleet from reaching Gaza shores, by use of force, if necessary.

All dailies reported on Israel's refusal to participate in an international conference to promote a nuclear-free Middle East.

Saturday, May 29:

The dailies and PA official news agency Wafa all headlined the White House announcement that President Obama and President Abbas will meet on June 9 to discuss developments in proximity talks. The reports noted that the meeting would take place one week after Obama was scheduled to meet Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. According to the statement by White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, "President Obama is looking forward to discussing with President Abbas progress made thus far in the framework of indirect negotiations and the ways that the U.S. can work on with the two parties to help move towards direct negotiations." Gibbs added that the two presidents will "discuss our ongoing efforts for cooperation to develop the institutions that the Palestinian people are aspiring for and to support the establishment of a Palestinian state." The coverage notes that Netanyahu received his invitation to meet with President Obama from President Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, while he was in town to celebrate his son's bar mitzvah. The reports characterized Obama's invitation to Netanyahu as an attempt to improve relations between the Israel and the U.S. after the serious crisis in confidence which came as a result of continued settlement activities in East Jerusalem.

Al Quds and Al Ayyam front page a report by non-governmental organization Defence for Children International (DCI)-Palestine which reveals grave abuses by Israeli forces against Palestinian child prisoners. The reported violations include torture, threats and sexual assaults by Israeli army and police forces. To try to put a stop to such violations, DCI stated that it has submitted reports about the abuses to the UN, including sworn affidavits from the some of the abused children.

All papers front page the news that Israel partially reopened Road 443 for Palestinians after setting up barbed wires along both sides of the road and new checkpoints.

The dailies front page news that an Egyptian-American agreement has put pressure on Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The dailies report that the U.S. regrets that only Israel is mentioned as not having signed the Treaty.

The dailies also front page reports that the "Freedom Fleet" sailed for Gaza today as Israeli warships prepare to confront the fleet. According to the reports, Israel plans to capture the ships and arrest the passengers, the UN has called for restraint, and Europe has called for lifting the "unjust siege."

Block Quote:

-----Al-Quds runs an editorial entitled "We Have to Deepen the Israeli Crisis" in which the author opines that by committing the attack, Israel has propelled itself into an unprecedented, serious political crisis. The author believes that Palestinians should maintain self-control and let the international community

develop a position against Israel.

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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/TC, EAP/P, EAP/PD - THOMAS HAMM
DEPARTMENT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY, THE ISRAELI
RAID

1. Summary: Taiwan's major Chinese-language dailies focused news coverage June 2 on the poor law and order in Taichung City; on the year-end elections; and on the Legislative Yuan's plan to amend the Doctors Act. In terms of editorials and commentaries, in a column commenting on the Obama administration's release of the National Security Strategy, the author pointed out that the administration once again sees the importance of India after it neglected India for a while. Because of the support of the United States, it is more likely that India will realize its dream to be a "big country." On the controversial Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla, a column in the KMT-leaning "China Times" said Israel's move once again demonstrated its brutality and long-existing unjustifiable behavior against Palestine. The article said the first step for the United States to resolve the deadlock in the Middle East is to help secure a deal between Hamas and Israel. End summary.

2. National Security Strategy

"Other People Also Have the Dream of Being Big Countries"

James Tu, the publisher of "Apple Daily," wrote in his column in the mass-circulation "Apple Daily" [circulation: 530,000] (6/2):

"... In the past few years, India has held the same attitude as that of China as being a big country. It's [India's] national confidence has increased significantly and it is eager to earn the respect and recognition from the international community. However, after the Obama administration assumed office, the significance of India in

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

the United States' international strategic picture was far less than that during the Bush administration. The United States not only kicked India out when handling the Afghanistan issue; but also, on the issue of India and Pakistan, the United States even invited China to jointly play a role as a coordinator. This was a huge insult to India. India, feeling that it was treated unfairly, began to review its past pro-United States policies and questioned whether those policies were just [based on] its own wishful thinking. It [India] even began to develop multilateral strategic relations.

"However, the feeling of distance between the United States and India did not stay that way for long. The United States has felt the importance of India. Last August, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited India for five days and received a warm reception from both the Indian government and the opposition parties. ... United States Secretary of Defense Robert Gates also visited India earlier this year. ... Subsequent developments in the bilateral relationship included the Malabar naval exercise held in April in the Arabian Sea. This is the tenth Malabar exercise since 1992. Australia, Japan and Singapore used to participate in the exercise. However, only the navies of the United States and India participated in the exercise. While the United States' military power is declining relatively, it is more likely that the United States needs reliable allies to jointly maintain the security of the sea lanes from the Persian Gulf to East Asia. India is the only big country that has remarkable sea power capabilities. Also, with its geographic position and being a democracy [like the United States], India is almost destined to be a partner of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. The United States always regards the sea transport line from the East China Sea and South China Sea to the Middle East as its Maginot Line. Nowadays, facing the rise of China, some allies of the United States have begun to shift. By comparison, India's importance to the United States is almost irreplaceable.

"The first-ever foreign minister-led strategic dialogue between the United States and India that was held in Washington recently was the realization of Clinton's promise made last year. Such a dialogue undoubtedly raised the status of India. Furthermore, President Obama will visit India for the first time this autumn. It seems that Obama's anti-Bush sentiment has been replaced by realism. The brief feeling of distance between the United States and India has also come to an end. In the future, the strategic dialogue between the two countries will be more intense and diverse alongside the greater overlapping of the two countries' common interests. Because of the support of the United States, India's dream of being a big country will become more and more real."

3. The Israeli Raid

"Israel Deserves to be Condemned by the Whole World"

Columnist Lin Po-wen wrote in his column in the KMT-leaning "China Times" [circulation: 120,000] (6/2):

"... After this unfortunate incident, the Obama administration must

rack its brains to break the deadlock concerning Hamas. Otherwise, there will not be a day of peace in the Middle East. This first depends on whether Obama is able to persuade the hard line Hamas to negotiate with the moderate Palestinian authorities before they RAID

publicly recognize the existence of Israel. In the past two years, thanks to the United States' assistance, Israel and Hamas conducted clandestine negotiations on a cease fire. However, there remains a lack of consensus between the two sides [Israel and Hamas] regarding Hamas' release of captured Israeli sergeant Gilad Schalit.

"Former United States Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk also said that after the clash over the sea ended and everyone calms down, the first priority of the Obama administration is to find a solution between Israel and Hamas that Hamas guarantees not to raid Israel and Israel promises not to block the Gaza strip. This solution must include Hamas releasing Schalit. Only by this can the Middle East move on to peace. ..."

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OIIP, KPAO, KMDR, MU
SUBJECT: OMAN SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST GAZA AID
FLOTILLA

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

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

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

"The raid has brought into sharp focus the crippling Israeli blockade of Gaza and the international community's apathy to Gaza's plight. So far Israel has been getting away with every atrocity it has been perpetrating against the Palestinians and this time the world should not allow it to happen. It should be isolated and punished for yesterday's crime, which is not only against the

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Palestinians but others also. What is appalling in the sordid drama is Israel indulged in the heinous act just on the eve of its Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington to confer with the Obama administration officials on the progress of the current proximity talks to restart the Middle East peace dialogue. Israel's peace postures are a charade and the Jewish state is taking the world, particularly the US, for a ride. It's time President Obama sees through Israel's game. Will he act now?"

ATTACK DESERVES "CONDEMNATION OF THE HIGHEST ORDER"

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

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

ACTION "A KIND OF ISRAELI BARBARISM"

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

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

government aims to throttle the Gaza Strip, destroy its economy and prevent its people from very basic living requirements."

ISRAEL "BLEW UP ALL PEACE"

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

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

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E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, PGOV, PREL, IN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: INDIA - U.S., ISRAEL, INDIA-
PAKISTAN; NEW DELHI.

This countrywide cable reports on relevant media

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

reaction/opinion from India's large non-English press.
The Mission reports on English-language media via email
through the daily "Early Edition" summary.

INDIA - U.S.

1. "REPORT CARD OF UPA GOVERNMENT," editorial in June 3
right-of-center Urdu daily, SIASAT: "There is an
impression at the international level that India has
mortgaged its foreign policy to the U.S. and the
Western powers. There are indications that in the near
future everything in India will be controlled by the
U.S., which has already managed to clinch a civilian
nuclear deal on its own terms. The Indian government
should be wary of the shrewd nature of the U.S."

ISRAEL

2. "WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED AGAINST JEWS,"
editorial in June 3 right-of-center Urdu daily,
SAHAFAT: "The incident of the Israeli raid on the Gaza-
bound Turkish aid flotilla has lifted the guise of
innocence from the face of Israel. One should not be
surprised if a worldwide hate campaign is launched
against Jews following this incident which deserves
condemnation in the strongest possible terms from the
flag-bearers of peace and humanity across the world."

3. "UNPARDONABLE ISRAEL," editorial in June 2 centrist
Hindi daily, NAI DUNIYA: "Israel has challenged all the
peaceful countries by attacking a human aid convoy to
Gaza. Many countries have demanded and the UN Security
Council has also passed a bill to bring an end to the
crippling siege on Gaza, but Israel does not care...
That is because the U.S. administration has been
backing Israel under pressure from America's Jewish
lobby. The need of the hour is that all the big
nations should come forward and put pressure on Israel
to end the ongoing siege. Or else jihadi elements will
get another reason to plot more dangerous terror
attacks."

INDIA-PAKISTAN

4. "SOME POSITIVE SIGNS," op-ed by former Indian
diplomat and legislator Kuldip Nayar in June 2 right-
of-center Hindi daily, DAINIK JAGRAN: "An India-
Pakistan dialogue is necessary to clarify what was
lacking in the evidences provided by India against the
Jamaat ud Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed. Some necessary

actions should be taken for trust-building like promoting trade and travel... At one point of time France and Germany also went through a similar situation. They joined hands through an economic commission and a joint

market. India and Pakistan should also make some efforts like this and develop this kind of arrangement in South Asia. We cannot take the risk of failure this time."

WHITE

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/04): Mitchell's message and
VP comments supporting Israeli self-defense juxtaposed

Main Stories:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

-----The Palestinian media continued its coverage of the Palestinian Investment Conference (PIC) in Bethlehem. The dailies run front page photos of S/E Mitchell during a tour of the PIC's Palestinian Product Exhibition village wearing a Palestinian Kufiya (keffiyeh), which was offered to him by one of the Palestinian vendors. The main stories highlighted S/E George Mitchell's participation at the Conference yesterday. The speech he delivered during a joint session with the Middle East Quartet Representative Tony Blair received extensive, positive coverage.

S/E Mitchell is quoted emphasizing that the U.S. vision of a Palestinian state is one of a vibrant Palestinian private sector and strong institutions that provide investment opportunities and jobs. Mitchell is also quoted commenting on the Flotilla incident saying that the tragedy of flotilla should not be allowed to spiral out of control and undermine the limited but real progress that has been made [by proximity talks].

The dailies also reported on S/E Mitchell's participation in a special session with Palestinian and international information and communication technology (ICT) companies. The coverage notes that he emphasized that peace needs a strong economic foundation to meet the needs of a future Palestinian state and the Palestinian people.

Palestinian Authority official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front pages news on Vice President Biden's interview with the BBC about the flotilla incident and his comment that Israel has the right to defend itself. Another Al-Hayat Al-Jadida headline reads "Turkish President will not forgive Israel." Al-Quds reports that Turkey froze its energy programs with Israel in response to the "attack." President Abbas will visit Turkey next week to deliver his condolences.

In related news, independent daily Al-Quds leads with reports that Israeli officials are denying that the Israeli government is resisting pressure to form an investigation committee to look into the flotilla incident. The reports note that the United States is trying to help Israel out of the "crisis" and eliminate the international pressure by proposing the formation of an internal independent investigation committee including participation of an American representative.

Block Quote:

-----Iyad Sarraj writing in Al-Quds under the title "Israel the Victim" opines that the attack committed by Israel against innocent civilians last week proves how much it fears reaching peace with the Palestinians. According to the writer, Israel believes that the siege and war against Gaza are legitimate.

Palestinian Cyberspace:

Palestinian social media extensively covered the flotilla incident.

Dr. Refaat Al Areer blogged on Bourb.org, a Gaza blog ran by university students, under the title "Israel's Power of the Camera: Gaza's Power of Gaza" writing that Israel screwed up on its homework

to be done in Gaza. "It spends millions of dollars on propaganda and hundreds of hours of meetings and preparations. However, in in Gaza and only by Gaza, Israel's true face is revealed in a blink on an eye. There is no homework done well for Israel in Gaza. Israel has to accept the concrete fact that it has no business in Gaza. Yes, it is this simple."

Ma'an News Agency posted "An Open Letter to President Obama" from Dr. Ahmed Yousef, Deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hamas government in Gaza. In the letter, Dr. Yousef writes "Arab public opinion has already judged America for its irrational support of Israeli policy; and regional governments are in no position to contest United States policy. Yet Turkey is an exception to this rule; and your [Obama's] administration may witness the loss of even that strategic NATO ally...We hope that when you come to a crossroad of American strategy, you will make a decision previous administrations were too recalcitrant to make; and that you will take a road less traveled."

Cartoon of the Week:

This cartoon appeared in Al-Quds on June 2. It shows the flotilla and a diver swimming nearby representing the Western press and turning a blind eye to the blood and destruction that happened against the flotilla and its passengers.

RUBINSTEIN

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/07): Israel refuses
international investigation; US: Israel's siege unbearable

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

Main Stories:

-----Independent dailies Al-Ayyam and Al-Quds lead with news that yesterday Israel deported all the activists that had been on board the Rachel Corrie. According to the reports, Israel refuses to form an international committee to investigate the "massacre" on the Freedom Fleet. In related news, Palestinian Authority (PA) official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front pages reports that Paris and London are insisting on an "international" investigation and that UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has proposed forming a multinational committee to investigate the incident. The dailies report that French Foreign Minister Kouchner has proposed having the EU monitor fleets wanting to enter Gaza as well as monitoring the Rafah border crossing. Al-Ayyam notes that Hamas welcomed the Kouchner proposal.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports that the British Government called for lifting the siege imposed on Gaza and announced that it will give \$27 million to help support Gazan refugees. Dailies report that the Secretary General of the Arab League, Amr Mousa, informed President Abbas that he intends to visit Gaza. The dailies also reported that a delegation from the Arab Parliamentary Union visited Gaza yesterday.

Al-Ayyam reports that President Abbas arrived in Istanbul yesterday to pay condolences to the Turkish government prior to his trip to the United States. Abbas is scheduled to meet with the Turkish President and Prime Minister today. Al-Ayyam notes that Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan has stated that Turkey will pursue its efforts to lift the siege of Gaza.

In other news, Al-Quds reports that Israeli soldiers stopped an anti-wall demonstration in Beit-Jala and arrested more than 17 Palestinians in Silwan and Issawiyeh neighborhoods in East Jerusalem yesterday.

Weekend Stories:

Sunday, June 6:

The dailies main front page story reported that for the second time in less than a week, Israel naval forces seized a Gaza-bound aid ship and towed it toward Ashdod where it detained the crew and activists on board. The papers report that the Israeli navy said that it seized the ship after its crew refused three calls to turn towards Ashdod. According to the articles, the latest Israeli step exacerbated the international campaign against Israel and increased calls for sending more aid ships to Gaza Strip and ultimately for lifting the blockade imposed on the Strip.

Al Quds and Al Ayyam front page statements by White House officials that Israel's siege of Gaza Strip is "unbearable" and its calls for the Rachel Corrie to sail to Ashdod harbour to avoid any violence. Mike Hammer a spokesperson for the U.S. National Security Council is quoted saying, "we are working with Israel, the Palestinian

Authority, and other international partners on new procedures to deliver more goods and aid to Gaza" and that "the current procedures are unbearable and need to be changed. We call upon all parties to join us and encourage responsible decisions by all parties to avoid any unnecessary confrontations."

Saturday, June 5:

The dailies front page quotes from President Obama's interview on Larry King Live. The dailies note that Obama refused to condemn Israel's interdiction without knowing all the facts. The reports quote Obama saying, "we need to know the facts... but it is not too early to say to the Israelis, the Palestinians, and to all the parties in the region that the current situation is unbearable." The papers report that Obama said, "we need to reach a situation whereby Palestinians have genuine opportunities and Israel's neighbors take its legitimate security concerns into consideration and commit to peace." The papers quote Obama saying that "there is a situation under which Israel has legitimate concerns that rockets might pour out on its cities alongside the borders between Israel and Gaza" and "on the other hand there is a siege imposed on Gaza that prevents people from getting jobs, building institutions, and engaging in trade, depriving them from any future prospects. I think it is important to break out of the current impasse."

All dailies front page President Abbas's statement that ending the internal division among Palestinians and achieving reconciliation were the two top priorities for Palestinian leadership. The papers report that during his meeting with a delegation of Gazan businessmen at the second Palestine Investment Conference, President Abbas stated that the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza was a result of the continued internal divisions. He stressed the importance of reconciliation in order to improve current conditions in Gaza. President Abbas expressed his surprise at Hamas's continued unwillingness to sign the Egyptian paper and its lack of cooperation to send a delegation to discuss reconciliation. President Abbas told the delegation, "we are working on realizing the right of return but also to realize our dream, our hope, and our objective of Jerusalem being the eternal capital of the Palestinian people...we want a homeland for all Palestinians."

Block Quote:

-----Under the title "The Angry People's Message to the Leaders of the U.S., Europe and the Arab World," an Al-Quds editorial opines that the popular demonstrations that are taking place in almost every corner of the world against the Israeli attacks on the Free Gaza Flotilla and the Rachel Corrie not only reflect how "disgusted" people are with Israeli actions but also the outrage at the silence of U.S., European and Arab leaders. According to the writer, these demonstrations represent the huge gap between official and popular positions in the world.

MARCHESE

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SENSITIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PREL, OSCE, KCFE, RS, XG

SUBJECT: Joint FSC-PC of June 2: Arab Partners Condemn Israel;
Working Group "A" Makes Negligible Progress

1. (SBU) The June 2 meeting of working Group "A" followed the 45th Joint FSC-PC Security Dialogue on Cyber Security (to be reported septel). The only other noteworthy interventions at the Joint FSC-PC were under "any other business" when OSCE cooperation partners Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, and participating State Turkey strongly condemned Israeli actions against the "humanitarian flotilla" headed for Gaza. They urged the OSCE to join other international organizations in condemning "Israeli aggression" as a violation of international law. San Marino (Berguido) referred pS to its official statement of condemnation. Spain (Martinez), as EU President, noted a new statement on the flotilla was released by European Council President Herman Van Rompuy. Canada (Gosel) expressed regrets for the tragedy and looked forward to the uncovering of all the facts concerning the event.

Working Group "A"

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer**

Vienna Document 1999

2. (SBU) There were no agenda items for discussion in Working Group "B." In Working Group "A," Germany (Risse) noted the revised Food-for-thought on holding a high level military doctrine seminar (FSC.DEL/43/10) was revised only to register the additional co-sponsors (Albania, Austria, France, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland). Their intention is to move the FFT to plenary on June 23 for decision in order to lock in the dates for the seminar.

3. (SBU) The Hungarian Chairman (Pokol) noted the draft decision on a meeting of the Heads of Verification Centers (FSC.DD/4/10) would be on the agenda for the next meeting of Working Group "A." Pokol said the Chair's intention was to agree to the decision before the summer recess.

SALW/SCA

4. (U) There was no discussion of the FSC contribution to the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

5. (SBU) During the discussion on the Danish-German FFT on Destruction of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.AIAM/10/10/Rev.1), Cyprus (Zivanas) made three points:

- Under Op para 1, tick 3, Cyprus supported the French proposal to use the term "operationally unusable" (vice "dangerous or unmanageable") or any other equivalent term proposed, as long as the terms "dangerous or unmanageable" were not used.

- Op para 2, Cyprus proposed changing the first line to read: "To encourage pS to provide on voluntary basis assistance, in terms of fund and/or know-how and/or experts manpower, to other..."

- Cyprus suggested adding to the preamble: "Where Conventional Ammunition, being held by a participating State as a result of a legal action against illicit trade, or illicit/illegal transportation, or illicit proliferation, need to be destroyed the same way and with the same procedures, as nationally owned holdings;" following the language in the recent decision on an SALW

Plan of Action.

6. (SBU) In response to a U.S. question, Denmark explained that the reason it limited references to participating States' responsibilities under the ticks regarding expired and obsolete conventional ammunition was because the same references to surplus were already covered in the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. Denmark said the co-sponsors were open to suggested wording changes. (Note: the U.S. (Ellis) provided some suggestions "off-line" to Denmark and Germany, and reacted negatively to Cyprus's proposed addition to the preamble. End note.)

Code of Conduct

7. (SBU) Under Code of Conduct, Austria (Eischer) reminded delegates that on June 11 there would be an informal discussion on its FFT on a reference guide on the questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (FSC.DEL/14/10/Rev.1/Corr.1) would be held the morning of. Austria requested all participants to be prepared to make substantive contributions so that the proposal may move forward. Note: current co-sponsors are Germany, Canada, Denmark, Finland, United Kingdom, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. End note.

Other CSBMs: UNSCR 1540

8. (SBU) The U.S. (Ellis) briefed on the results of the May 28 informal "Friends of 1540" meeting with the participation of ISN DAS Foley and U.S. 1540 Coordinator Wuchte. The U.S., on behalf of co-sponsors Belgium and Italy, noted it was engaged in consultations regarding aspects that were raised during informal discussions and hoped to circulate soon a revised draft of (FSC.DEL/48/10).

9. (SBU) The next Working Group meetings will follow the first regular FSC Plenary session that will be held June 23, following the ASRC.
Fuller

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/10): Obama-Abbas meeting is portrayed as "positive and open"

Main Stories:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

-----The three dailies led with news of Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas's meeting yesterday with President Obama. PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida headlines a quote from PLO Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat saying the meeting was "positive and very open." A headline in Al-Quds reports that Obama called on Israel to control its settlement activities and on the PA to stop incitement. Dailies also highlight that President Abbas reaffirmed the PA's determination to continue with peace efforts. Reports note that Abbas will meet with National Security Advisor Jones today and with Secretary Clinton tomorrow. According to the dailies, Mitchell will return to the region next week.

Dailies highlight Obama's announcement of \$400 million in assistance to Gaza and his statement that the situation in Gaza is "intolerable." Abbas expressed appreciation for the assistance and for Obama's efforts to achieve peace and called on Israel to lift its siege of Gaza. Independent daily Al-Quds runs separate front page coverage quoting Erekat that Abbas asked President Obama to start implementing infrastructure projects in Gaza. Citing Israeli official radio, a separate front page story in Al-Quds notes that the Obama Administration is preparing a comprehensive strategic plan regarding the situation in Gaza which will include international security forces in Gaza and a permanent ceasefire between Hamas and Israel.

In related news, the dailies report that Israel has allowed more goods into Gaza lately in an attempt to ease some of its restrictions in Gaza. Goods reportedly allowed include snacks, juices, spices and shaving cream. Hamas leader in Gaza Ismail Hanniyeh is quoted saying that Hamas rejects any attempts to legitimize the Gaza siege.

Independent daily Al-Ayyam reports that Israel is awaiting the green light from the US administration to begin an internal investigation into the flotilla incident.

Front page reports note that Israeli Knesset members signed a bill that would force the Israeli Government to withhold PA tax revenues and transfer the revenues to Israeli businesses to compensate for losses incurred as a result of the PA settlement boycott campaign.

Dailies also report on United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) decision to impose additional sanctions on Iran.

Block Quote:

-----Under the title "Double Standards between Iran and Israel," an Al-Quds editorial criticizes the UNSC decision to impose more sanctions on Iran because of its nuclear program while nothing is being done to Israel for its nuclear program. The writer opines that the double standards in dealing with the two countries will only deepen the hatred and extremism in the Middle East and will undermine the stability and security that the US claims it wants to achieve.

MARCHESE

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/14): Abbas: Direct negotiations possible if common ground on borders and security

Main Stories:
-----Dailies lead with news of Arab League Secretary

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

General Amr Moussa's visit to Gaza yesterday. Moussa is quoted saying that the Gaza siege must be "broken." He discussed the importance of achieving Palestinian national reconciliation and implied that there are funds available for reconstruction activities in Gaza. Moussa will meet with President Abbas today in Sharm El-Sheikh to discuss his visit to Gaza.

Dailies report on President Abbas's meeting yesterday in Paris with French Foreign Minister Kouchner. According to the coverage, discussion focused on efforts to lift the Gaza siege, the implications of the flotilla attack and the Middle East peace process. Abbas will meet with President Sarkozy today.

Citing official PA news agency WAFA, independent daily Al-Quds front pages news that PA presidency office spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeina denied the story published in the Israeli daily Haaretz that President Abbas told President Obama that the siege on Gaza should not be completely lifted. Independent daily Al-Ayyam front pages news that PLO Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat also denied the report.

Al-Ayyam leads with news that Israel will form an investigative committee to look into the flotilla incident.

Independent daily Al-Quds reports that Israel plans to strip the residency permits of 300 Jerusalemite political figures in preparation for deporting them from Jerusalem.

Al-Quds reports that Fatah member Hatem Abdul Qader responsible for the PA's Jerusalem's portfolio denied that Fatah was responsible for the postponement of municipal elections.

Weekend stories:

Sunday, June 13:

Dailies front page news of President Abbas's meeting and joint press conference with Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero in Madrid. President Abbas discussed their shared vision of ending the siege on Gaza adding that Gazans have a right to receive all basic necessities to live their lives in a normal way, including urgently needed construction materials. The meeting between the two sides presented a Palestinian-Spanish agreement regarding the siege, the establishment of an international investigation committee to investigate the Israeli raid of the Freedom fleet, and Spain's support of the political positions of President Abbas. President Abbas expressed satisfaction with the role of the European Union.

PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front pages news that the U.S. Department of State echoed the growing confidence of the international community in President Abbas and the governmental institutions that have been established under his supervision and that of Prime Minister Fayyad.

Saturday, June 12:

Dailies front page news on President Abbas's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Clinton. According to the reports, Abbas and Clinton discussed the repercussions of the flotilla attack, the

Israeli siege on Gaza, settlements, and the peace process, particularly developments in the proximity talks.

In related news in an interview with Al Arabiya, President Abbas said that progress in negotiations will be possible when Israel agrees to proposals regarding security and borders, even if in principle. President Abbas said, "I am ready to move to direct negotiations with Netanyahu if both sides can find a common ground regarding the two main issues of borders and security...Palestinians have made their position clear to Senator Mitchell on these two issues. If Netanyahu accepts this common ground which was approved by former Israeli governments, then we can engage in direct negotiations and deal with the remaining issues."

Block Quote:

-----Mouhamad Inaya writing in Al-Quds under the title "Israel, Pregnant with War, Can it Give Birth to Peace?" opines that peace is a hard choice for Israel, and it needs Israelis to exert more pressure on their government to prepare itself to accept the concept of peace. The writer is skeptical about Israel and Israelis' readiness to make such a choice.

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TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/16): Abbas's mantra: Direct
talks once progress on borders and security

Main Stories:

-----Independent dailies Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam lead with

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

news of President Abbas's meeting with President Mubarak yesterday. Abbas is quoted saying that the lifting of the Gaza siege requires the opening of Gaza's seven border crossings. Abbas said that the PA is ready to form a "transitional or independent government" if Hamas signs the Egyptian reconciliation paper and that moving to direct talks will happen when progress is achieved on the issues of borders and security. He also dismissed Israeli's flotilla probe as biased.

In related news, Al-Quds reports that S/E Mitchell will be back to the region today to meet with Palestinian and Israeli officials to discuss the latest developments in the proximity talks and repercussions of the flotilla incident.

PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida leads with news that the Jerusalem municipality endorsed construction of the previously announced 1600 housing units in Ramat Shlomo in north Jerusalem. Ahmad Qurei, the PLO's Head of the Jerusalem Affairs is quoted saying that the endorsement is a dangerous step that will negatively impact peace efforts.

The dailies report that today the Israeli ministerial cabinet will discuss the partial lifting of the Gaza siege and allowing more goods into Gaza.

Citing AFP, the dailies report that Yuval Diskin, the head of "Shabak" (Shin Bet), reported that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have 5000 rockets. Ma'an reports that Diskin also stated that "Hamas is working through Dawas (Islamic missionary and charity groups) to buy land within the municipal borders of the city" as it jockey's with Fatah and the Islamic Movement for influence in the city.

Al-Quds reports on an opinion poll conducted by Khalil Shikaki's Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research between June 10-13 which shows Prime Minister Fayyad's popularity has increased and that there is increased support for the PA's boycott of settlements products. The Center is considered to be the most reputable polling firm in the Palestinian areas.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports Azzam Al-Ahmad, head of the Fatah parliamentary block in the Palestinian Legislative Council, stated during a press conference that the PA supports election monitoring by Arab and international bodies of Palestinian presidential and legislative elections.

Yesterday independent Palestinian news agency Ma'an reported that the French company Norsat decided to stop broadcasting Hamas's official TV station, Al-Aqsa satellite channel. Today, in inside coverage, Al-Ayyam reports that hundreds of journalists protested yesterday in front of the French Cultural Center in Gaza against Norsat's cancellation of the station. The headline reads that the protestors believed the decision came as a result of "Israeli and American pressures."

Block Quote:

-----Al-Quds runs an editorial entitled "Occupation Generates Violence," which opines that no one on earth has given peace talks and negotiations more chances than the Palestinians.

According to the writer, the stalemate and deteriorating negotiations are not caused by Palestinians but rather "extremist settlers."

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TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KTIA, KNNP, XF, IS, GZ, IR, MU

SUBJECT: OMAN: OMAN AND IRAN COUNCIL CHAIRMEN SIGN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: Oman's Chairman of the Majlis Ash'shura Council, Ahmad bin Mohammed Al Is'ae, visited Tehran from June 8 - 10. The capstone of Is'ae's visit was the signing of a joint communique on June 9 with Iranian Shura Council Chairman Ali Ardashir Larijani. Aside from affirmations of friendship between the countries, the agreement affirmed the rights of members of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) against discrimination and condemned Israel's actions on May 31 against the Freedom Flotilla. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) Is'ae IN TEHRAN: Arabic and English Omani print media covered the recent visit to Tehran of Oman's Chairman of the Shura Council Sheikh Ahmed Bin Mohammed Al Is'ae. Is'ae visited Iran from June 8 - 10, primarily meeting with Chairman Larijani of Iran's Shura Council. The visit culminated in the signing of a joint communique by the two Chairmen on June 9.

3. (SBU) JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON NPT AND MIDDLE EAST PEACE: The communique affirmed the rights of member parties to the NPT to develop, research, and produce nuclear energy for proper usage, and underscored that this right is free from discrimination. The communique also emphasized a joint condemnation of the Israeli interdiction of ("attack on") the Freedom Flotilla, labeling it as a crime against humanity. The communique called for the immediate lifting of the Israeli blockade of Gaza, for the halting of Israeli settlements, for immediate Israeli withdraw from occupied lands, and for the release of Palestinian prisoners.

5. COMMENT: The visit and the communique do are in accord with Oman's policy regarding its neighbors of "friend to all, enemy to none." The communique's position regarding Middle East peace is consistent with the Arab League position. Regarding the NPT Statement, the communique strikes a middle-of-the road approach, without declaring that the Iranian nuclear approach is entirely

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

peaceful. END COMMENT.
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Reviewer

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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast
2. Iran

Key stories in the media:

Maariv noted that PM Benjamin Netanyahu will not meet with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during his visit to the U.S. The daily quoted diplomatic sources as saying: QClinton is not relevant; she is outside the circle of influence. Mitchell has to a great extent taken over the peace process, and Obama is the important man in this story, because he is the one who decides.

All media cited FM Avigdor Lieberman's anger over having been by-passed as Industry, Trade and Labor Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer held a secret meeting in Switzerland with Turkish FM Ahmet Davutoglu. During their two-hour meeting, Davutoglu reportedly reiterated Turkey's demand that Israel apologize for its May 31 raid on the Gaza-bound flotilla that left nine Turkish activists dead, and other conditions for returning bilateral relations to their previous state. HaQaretz's Web site reported that yesterday a senior source in Jerusalem confirmed a report in the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet that the White House prompted the meeting and coordinated its details with both parties. Israel Radio reported that DM Barak refused to meet with a Turkish minister. The media quoted the Prime Minister's Bureau as saying that the omission was due to Qtechnical reasons.Q Among other media speculations, the leading online service Ynet reported that last night Cabinet ministers accused DM Ehud Barak of being behind the move. Ynet quoted senior Likud and Labor members as saying that Barak wants to demonstrate he is interested in a change in the composition of the Government coalition. Lieberman denied speculations that his Yisrael Beiteinu party was planning to leave the coalition over the matter. Israel Radio reported that the FM will meet will Netanyahu tomorrow to discuss the affair.

The media reported that P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas, Qin an apparent charm offensive aimed at the Israeli public,Q (as described

by The Jerusalem Post) has told reporters from the Hebrew media he is willing to enter direct negotiations with the Netanyahu government, as soon as he hears from Netanyahu regarding Israel's position on borders and security issues. Abbas was quoted as saying that originally he wanted to hear from Netanyahu whether he was willing to accept the understandings agreed upon by his predecessor, Ehud Olmert. Abbas said at the briefing that when no answer from Netanyahu was forthcoming regarding the Olmert offer, he sent a message through U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace Senator George Mitchell, saying that he would suffice with an answer on only two of the issues: borders and security. Q Regarding borders, we call for the establishment of a Palestinian state along the 1967 border, with east Jerusalem as our capital, and western Jerusalem your capital, Q Abbas was quoted as saying. He also said the issue of security was discussed with Olmert. Q I agreed that a third party will be in the territory, be it NATO, UNIFIL or another force. I don't want an Israeli presence on my land. This way Israel will get security, and I will get sovereignty. I asked, through the Americans, for answers to these questions, but Netanyahu has still not responded. Q Abbas also stressed that he would not compromise his position on Jerusalem, and that there would not be a third intifada in the West Bank. Abbas said that in his mind, Netanyahu was a partner for negotiations, and that he was not trying to replace negotiations with Israel with negotiations with the U.S. Abbas stated his conviction that his security forces can handle Palestinian prisoners who would be released in a swap involving Gilad Shalit. Asked about his presumed denial of the Holocaust, Abbas told the Israeli reporters: Q I researched the issue and quoted a number of people, including Jews. I wrote in there one line that you always forget: According to the Koran, the killing of one innocent person will not be forgiven. I am a man of faith, not an extremist, but a religious Muslim. It is clear that every murder in the Holocaust was illegal, unacceptable and immoral, Q he said. Q Nobody can deny the Holocaust. Regarding the exact number, it is not my job to determine. You say that six million were killed; I don't deny it.

The Jerusalem Post reported that during a visit yesterday to the Kerem Shalom crossing where Shalit was kidnapped, Special Envoy Mitchell demanded his release and called Hamas's behavior inhuman.

Yedioth reported that Hebrew University Professor Ruth Lapidot, Maj. Gen. (res.) and former Israel Navy Commander Avraham Ben-Shoshan, former Foreign Ministry Legal Adviser Meir Rosenne, and Bar-Ilan University Law Professor Yaffa Silberschatz, might join the Turkel committee probing events related to the commandeering of the Free Gaza Flotilla.

Media reported that 40 days after his release from an Israeli jail, Hamas leader Muhammad Abu-Tir was again arrested after he violated a ban from entering Jerusalem and the Green Line.

Maariv ran a feature on the efficiency of Hamas's domestic security in tracing collaborators with Israel. Maariv reported that the Hamas service fights al-Qaida and conveys reassuring messages to Netanyahu.

The media reported that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has banned Jewish-owned American companies Coca Cola, Intel, and IBM, as well as Nestle.

Yediot reported that the U.S. is giving Turkey a cold shoulder treatment.

The media reported that a NCO in the career army is suspected of spying for Hizbullah. In other news, Ha'aretz quoted Lebanese and pan-Arab newspapers as saying that senior Lebanese Government officials may be arrested on suspicion of spying for Israel.

The media reported that yesterday a Qassam rocket landed on a cowshed of a Negev kibbutz. There was extensive damage, but no casualties.

The media reported that an immigration judge in San Diego ruled yesterday that Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of a Hamas founder who became a Christian and an Israel spy, will be granted a U.S. asylum after he passes a routine background check.

Israel Hayom cited a report on the American monthly Foreign Policy's Web site that the U.S. military is checking the possibility of negotiations with Hizbullah and Hamas.

Maariv reported that OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría has recently praised the Israeli economic model, which he is interested in exporting.

The Jerusalem Post reported on artistic exchanges between Israel and the U.S.

The Jerusalem Post cited an AP report that Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan has written major U.S. Jewish leaders, asking the Jews to repair their anti-black behavior.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

1. QBolstering Turkel

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (7/1): QOnly full investigative powers -- like those given to the governmental inquiry commission on the Second Lebanon War, headed by retired judge Eliyahu Winograd -- would enable the Turkel Committee to function as an independent body. But even if the Turkel Committee is granted unlimited investigative powers, it will remain a lame and limited committee if the Government does not give it broad powers to investigate every aspect of May's botched raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla, including the Government's preparations for the flotilla's arrival and the conduct of at least the senior ranks of the army....

Any attempt to restrict the committee's authority and the list of those it investigates, from all the relevant ranks, would turn the committee into a body that lacks real significance. Thus Turkel must demand not only investigative powers, but also the power to determine factual findings, draw conclusions and make recommendations about both the conduct of the Government and the preparations of the military establishment. Otherwise, the new committee will also be a waste of time.

II. QIsraelis DonQt Want Peace

Liberal columnist Larry Derfner wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (7/1): QToday, if Israelis thought they could get away with expelling the Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza and the Israeli Arabs from Israel, theyQd support it. But they know they canQt, so they want to put as much distance and as high a wall between them and the Arabs as they can. If this is your idea of peace, then the clich Qall Israelis want peaceQ is true. You can say it doesnQt matter why the public has accepted the idea of a Palestinian state, the important thing is that it has. But this is a misunderstanding of Israeli public opinion. People here accept the idea of a Palestinian state in theory, but theyQre so antagonistic toward Arabs, so determinedly mistrustful of anything any of them says that in practice, Israelis are dead set against any move that might actually help bring a Palestinian state into being.... It doesnQt come out of nowhere. It comes from traumatic bouts of violence and bloodshed at the hands of Palestinians who donQt accept the Jewish state by any means. Israelis have a right to be cynical. Up to a point, though. Cynicism that closes their minds to the violence and bloodshed -- not to mention colonial tyranny -- that weQve visited on the Palestinians is going much too far for anyoneQs good.... Israelis today are as safe or safer than theyQve ever been, the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank is everything weQve ever asked for, yet I cannot remember a time of such bad blood against Arabs, and against anyone who criticizes how we treat them. Israelis say they want peace, but they resist with all their might any suggestion that itQs possible, that there are things we can do that weQre not doing to bring it closer. No, Israelis are not ready to change, theyQre not ready to free the Palestinians, theyQre not ready for peace. That is, not unless you believe in polls.

III. QBearded and Dangerous

Dr. Muhammad Watad, a senior law lecturer at the Safed Academic College, wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (7/1): QIf the guilt of the seven bearded men from Nazareth [who are suspected of carrying out terrorist acts in support of Hizbullah] is proven, the burden will be on the shoulders of the Arab sector in Israel to explain the how and why. A public that demands the establishment of various commissions of inquiry over every incident or operation carried out by Israel, either justly so or not, often needs to do some soul-searching of its own. I belong to the Arab sector in Israel, and my column here is directed at a public I care about. I care so very much and even if they are beardedQthey should not be a danger to the State.

2. Iran:

Block Quotes:

I. QCompletely on Its Own

Interdisciplinary Center, wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (7/1): QThe haughty and obtuse Iranians are now angry with the whole world [over the sanctions imposed by the U.N, Security Council]: with the U.S. and the European Union (the E.U. Qwill be severely punished,Q and the Germans, according to the Iranians, are QIsraelQs slavesQ), the Russians, who abandoned them (Russia, according to Iran, is a Qcrumbling empireQ; everyone is crumbling but them, of course), and with the Chinese, who betrayed them. Where will they go now? The regime in Tehran remains isolated from the entire world, and beneath it is Iranian society, which wants to end the dictatorship of the ayatollahs, which is, in sum, thirty years old. This is precisely the time that we must not let up on the Iranians, and what the world offered Iran regarding its nuclear program last year, which Iran turned down, it must never offer again. The time has come for the Persian bazaar to end. The officials in Tehran know that this pressure could overthrow the ayatollahsQ regime, and therefore we must not settle for less than a complete stop in the race to nuclear arms. In any case, a collapsing Iranian economy means less terrorism in the region, less extremism and defiance, less aid to Hizbullah and Hamas, and that can only benefit stability in the Middle East.

II. QIn Praise of Wars of Choice

Settler leader Israel Harel wrote in the independent, left-leaning HaQaretz (7/1): QThe view that [Defense Minister Ehud] Barak espoused [this week at IsraelQs Institute for National Security Studies] -- that Israel must not wage war to bring about geostrategic changes -- is fundamentally flawed. Yet many influential politicians and intellectuals, as well as military chiefs both past and present, have been beholden to this same error. This view has turned into official policy because many of its proponents were personally burned in the First Lebanon War.... Whoever declares in advance that he is abandoning Israel's traditional combat doctrine -- one founded on preemptive counterattack -- is actually inviting the enemy to launch its own first strikes, with all the attendant hardships they create. During the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan chose to absorb the first blow instead of being the first to strike, lest they be perceived as having launched a war of choice. The cost of the war price rose accordingly. Do we now intend to absorb the first blow from Iran? Because this time the price is liable to be so terrible that it seems doubtful that Israeli society -- given the stunning lack of fortitude it has displayed in recent days over a single captive soldier -- would be able to bear it.

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SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key stories in the media:

HaQaretz quoted official sources as saying that PM Benjamin Netanyahu will get a warm reception from President Obama on his trip to Washington next week. But Obama is expected to question Netanyahu closely on where the peace process is heading, around three months before the freeze on West Bank construction expires. The sources were quoted as saying that the Americans are concerned about the implications that resuming the construction might have on the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. U.S. officials are pressuring P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas to start direct talks with Israel. Obama is expected to suggest to Netanyahu that he extend the building freeze in one form or another, to enable direct talks to take place. HaQaretz quoted officials other than U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace Senator George Mitchell, headed by the President's adviser Dennis Ross, as saying that the scheduled White House meeting should be used to restore trust between the two leaders. HaQaretz quoted a Jerusalem source as saying that the administration has not yet decided which approach to take, increasing the chance that Obama will not demand that Netanyahu present positions on the conflict's core issues at the talks with the Palestinians, especially the question of borders. PM Netanyahu is due at the White House at 11 A.M. on Tuesday to hold a two-hour meeting with President Obama. Immediately afterward the two will hold a joint news conference lasting about a half hour; it will coincide with Israel's evening news broadcasts. Later in the day Obama will host the Israeli delegation at a dinner. Netanyahu is also scheduled to meet Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. On Wednesday Netanyahu will travel to New York, where he will meet Jewish community leaders. Israel Radio reported that State Department officials requested that DM Ehud Barak should accompany Netanyahu on his trip, but that it not sure that the latter will travel to Washington.

The Jerusalem Post reported that the Defense Ministry has begun to prepare for a possible transfer to the P.A. of responsibility for

the crossings into Gaza.

Major media reported that Gilad Shalit's family is furious at the stance expressed by PM Benjamin Netanyahu last night in a televised live address against a prisoner swap at any price beyond the release of 1,000 prisoners. Yediot saw contradictions in Netanyahu's speech about his actions in the current and past prisoner-swap negotiations. Leading media quoted Gilad's father Noam Shalit as saying: "The question is not whether to release [Hamas] prisoner, the question is whether Gilad should be killed."

The Jerusalem Post and other media quoted sources close to FM Avigdor Lieberman as saying that he will take a "cold, calculated revenge" for the humiliation he sustained by being left out of contacts with the Turkish PM in Brussels (and not in Switzerland, as mentioned in early media reports).

Israel Radio quoted the Turkish daily Hurriyet as saying that Israel has raised the possibility of apologizing and paying compensation to Turkey over the Mavi Marmara incident. The radio later quoted the Turkish newspaper Zaman as saying that the U.S. is trying to convince Israel to apologize to Turkey over the flotilla events to bring to an end the crisis between the two countries. Diplomatic sources reportedly told Zaman that Washington is not interested in two of its Mideast allies stopping cooperating between them. A senior diplomat told Zaman that if Israel is truly interested in normalizing its relations with Turkey, an apology would resolve the crisis. Zaman also reported that Ankara might close its airspace to commercial flights from Israel if its demands are not met. Incidentally, major media cited Hurriyet as saying yesterday that the Turkish economy has lost \$400 million because of the boycott of the country by Israeli tourists.

Yediot reported that a delegation of E.U. foreign ministers will visit Gaza this month.

Leading media cited a Wall Street Journal report published yesterday that Iran has provided Syria with a sophisticated radar that could complicate an Israeli air strike against Iran's nuclear facilities.

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe quoted Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat as saying during President Abbas's meeting with Senator Mitchell that the King's Garden project in East Jerusalem puts the negotiations at risk.

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe quoted American Reform Rabbi Richard Rubenstein as saying in an interview with the monthly New English Review that President Obama will not be particularly sorry if Israel is liquidated.

HaQaretz reported that the internal military probe into the IDF raid on the Turkish aid flotilla to Gaza headed by Gen. (res.) Giora Eiland is expected to request more time than it was originally allotted to reach its conclusions. It appears that members of Eiland's staff are of the belief that the scope of the army's

mishaps is more extensive than originally thought. The committee's findings are certainly expected to be more critical than the statements made by senior IDF officers immediately after the May 31 incident on the Mavi Marmara.

The Jerusalem Post quoted senior Israeli negotiator Mike Herzog as saying that direct talks must start before an extension of the moratorium on construction in the West Bank. In a series of three full-page paid ads in Maariv (and a smaller campaign in other media), the Yesha Council of Jewish Settlements in the Territories demands that Netanyahu put an end to his moratorium.

Maariv reported that IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi has decided to create an QarmyQ of teenage bloggers who will roam Facebook to defend IsraelQs positions.

HaQaretz (English Ed.) reported on a program that ended last month, in which a group of 45 Jewish Modern Orthodox yeshiva women learned about Palestinian realities.

Yediot reported that fearing he might be arrested for Qwar crimes, the Commander of the Hebron Brigade, Col. Uri Ben-Moha, has decided to cancel a study travel to the U.K.

The Jerusalem Post reported that the Maghen Abraham Synagogue in Beirut will reopen in 2011 after 40 years.

Yediot reported that Interior Minister Eli Yishai has decided to deport 1,000 children of migrants. However, Israel Hayom reported that an interministerial committee will allow 800 children of foreign workers to receive Israeli citizenship.

Yediot reported that yesterday two Beersheva twelfth-grade students were awarded the first and second prizes in an international science competition -- the Poland-based QFirst Step to Nobel Prize in Physics.

Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. QDecision Time for the PM

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (7/2):
QFrom the key Israeli leader, the Prime Minister ... there is silence [on the peace process]. Critics from Left and Right assert that he is more preoccupied with his own political survival than with articulating a clear, coherent position that could both bring momentum to the negotiations and enable the international community to understand IsraelQs needs. But with the 10-month settlement building freeze slated to end in September, and [Mahmoud] Abbas adroitly portraying himself as waiting for the Prime Minister, Netanyahu is going to have to make some tough decisions -- and to

alienate some of the domestic and international players, with their conflicting agendas, whom he has sought simultaneously to court until now. In fact, decision time might well come next week, when he sits down with Obama. For Israel's sake, he had better go to the White House well prepared.

II. QYes, Leadership

Senior columnist Nahum Barnea wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist *Yediot Aharonot* (7/2): QAbu Mazen is willing to engage in direct talks, Obama will tell Netanyahu in Washington next week, but he will not be able to do so if Israel renews the construction in the settlements on September 26. He will not be able to stand the humiliation. But we promised, Netanyahu will say. Launching direct talks is much more important, Obama will say. Not just for you. For us, the Americans, too. I am told that even in the forum of seven [Cabinet ministers] such a decision will not pass easily, YaQalon will oppose at first, so will Eli Yishai and Lieberman, and certainly Begin, but the forum of seven, as I have understood, is not a voting forum. In the cabinet you have no problem. In the party you have no problem. In the Knesset you have no problem.... Caution, Netanyahu will say. Leadership, Obama will say. Yes, leadership, Netanyahu will sigh.

III. QA Diplomatic Poker Game

Columnist Shmuel Rosner, who was HaQaretz's correspondent in Washington, wrote in the popular, pluralist *Maariv* (7/2): QNext week President Obama will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Another meeting in a flood of meetings that have become

routine. Here is what the President will tell him: QThe settlement freeze must continue. Netanyahu will have to listen -- and afterwards to agree as well. This is the belief of the professional circles in the U.S. Government -- and also that of senior intelligence analysts in Israel. This means that the pretense of urgency ahead of the bubble can also be dismantled: there will be a freeze Q as in the famous adage, the question will only be of the price. The diplomatic poker game over the next few weeks will focus precisely on this question. Netanyahu doesn't want to reach a situation in which he will have no choice but to disobey the administration and suffer punishment by the U.S.

IV. QA Hostile, Alienated Administration

Editor-in-Chief Amnon Lord wrote in the nationalist, Orthodox *Makor Rishon-Hatzofer* (7/2): QOn June 25, [New York Times pundit] Thomas Friedman published an article whose extremely harsh conclusion connects with [American Reform Rabbi Richard] Rubinstein. It may be interpreted as a message that Friedman is conveying on behalf of the Obama administration. It contains a threat. Those who suspect that Rubinstein's remarks regarding Obama's hidden agenda are proving close to the truth. Friedman's message sounds like a threat that outlines a trap into which Obama would have wished to bring down the State of Israel.

V. QA Vacuum in the Foreign Ministry

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (7/2): QInstead of apologizing and looking for ways to appease Lieberman, Netanyahu must tell the truth: the Yisrael Beiteinu chairman cannot head the Foreign Ministry, and that is why ministers whom the world views as moderates are being sent on missions abroad instead of him. And then, instead of clinging to his harmful political partnership with Lieberman, Netanyahu should ask Kadima to the coalition. As long as the government's composition remains as it is now, no one in the international community will believe Netanyahu's declarations about his desire for an agreement with the Palestinians.

VI. QThe Third Lebanon War

Senior commentator Ari Shavit wrote in Ha'aretz (7/2): QA wave of rumors has spread in Israel in recent weeks: War will break out already this summer. The rumors are exaggerated and premature.... To prevent the third Lebanon war, Netanyahu must do two things: take Israel out of the corner and demonstrate proactive leadership. He has been doing the opposite. Just as on the eve of the Second Lebanon War the IDF's emergency stores were empty, today the diplomatic emergency stores are empty. If Israel has to use force to defend itself, no one will understand it and stand by its side. Ironically, under a prime minister who believes in diplomatic power, Israel has achieved total isolation and a dangerous diplomatic weakness that is bringing the next war closer. Obama and Netanyahu must wake up. The deal is a familiar one: determined American action vis-a-vis Iran in exchange for a determined Israeli initiative vis-a-vis Syria and Palestine. This deal can be closed only by these two leaders, who will look each other in the eye next Tuesday in the Oval Office. If they don't change their ways and learn how to work with each other, Obama and Netanyahu will bear personal responsibility for the results of the third Lebanon war.

VII. QA State and Its People

Diplomatic correspondent and television anchor Ben Caspit wrote in Maariv (7/2): QOnce again, it must be stated that the Shalit family is doing only what can be expected of them. Any other family would do the same, and perhaps take even more severe action in order to secure the release of its son. Nobody has nor ought to have any complaint against this family that is crying out for the life of their son. The question, however, is not what the Shalit family ought to do, but rather what the Prime Minister ought to do. He, contrary to them, is not the leader of a family but rather of a state. His actions, unlike theirs, will pursue him through the ages and be forever registered under his name. They will have repercussions not just for the life of one soldier but for the lives of thousands, perhaps all, Israeli citizens.... Let us only hope that this was a genuine Qred lineQ speech and not a virtual one, because with Netanyahu, red lines often tend to fade to white if need be, with or without some Qtechnical failureQ as its impetus. One must hope for a determined, decisive and unwavering prime

minister on this matter.

VIII. QWhoQs the Head Honcho Here?

Political parties columnist Yossi Verter wrote in HaQaretz (7/2):
QFor the past two or three weeks [Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman] has suspected that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is preparing for coalition changes in the form of the appropriation of Tzipi Livni and her Kadima party -- a move that would lead to the removal of, or would substantially weaken, Yisrael Beiteinu, the party Lieberman leads.... The growing distress palpable in NetanyahuQs circles is heightened by threats in recent days from very sources in Yisrael Beiteinu.... Lieberman dreams of being the leader of the Right. In the 2006 elections, he already realized that dream, when his party won 11 seats and Likud won 12. A difference of only about 115 votes prevented the opposite result.

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SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key stories in the media:

The Jerusalem Post reported that U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace Senator George Mitchell arrived in Israel yesterday for three days of talks, amid reports that the U.S. would like to see PM Benjamin Netanyahu extend the 10-month settlement freeze in exchange for a P.A. agreement to enter into direct talks. Mitchell is expected to meet with DM Ehud Barak and Netanyahu today, as well as with P.A. Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. He is scheduled to meet with P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas tomorrow, and to leave the next morning. (Israel Radio reported that Fayyad and DM Barak are slated to meet in the next few days.) Mitchell's arrival comes a week before a meeting in the White House between Netanyahu and President Obama, in which the issue of settlement construction after the moratorium expires on September 26 is expected to be discussed. The Jerusalem Post reported that sources in the Prime Minister's Office would not say whether Netanyahu would be bringing any new ideas on this matter to the White House, with one official saying that Netanyahu had said consistently in recent weeks that the cabinet decision on the moratorium was for 10 months. Last night Netanyahu convened a meeting of his inner cabinet, a forum known as the septet, to discuss the Mitchell visit and the PM's upcoming trip to Washington. There are various opinions on the settlement moratorium inside the septet, with FM Avigdor Lieberman opposed to any extension, and Intelligence and Atomic Energy Minister Dan Meridor having spoken in recent weeks about the possibility of resuming construction in settlements inside the West Bank security barrier, but not to the east of it.

All media reported that Judge Yaakov Turkel, who heads the Independent Public Commission to Examine the Maritime Incident of 31 May 2010, has told the Government that the committee could not do its job without expanded investigative powers. Turkel wants to turn it into a full-fledged governmental inquiry committee with real teeth. That would allow it to subpoena witnesses and documents, warn those who testify before it that the panel's findings could harm

them, and hire outside experts in relevant fields. HaQaretz noted that the ability to issue warnings is necessary to enable the panel to draw personal conclusions against those involved in the incident; for instance, to recommend that certain officials be dismissed or denied promotion. Warnings also enable witnesses to be prosecuted for perjury if they are later found to have lied to the committee – though in reality, few investigative committees have ever recommended perjury prosecutions. Leading media reported that PM Netanyahu has consulted Justice Minister Yaakov NeQeman and Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein with the aim of reaching a compromise with Turkel. Some media reported that Netanyahu and Barak have already accepted the change demanded by Turkel.

Leading media reported that yesterday President Obama hosted King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. Israel Radio reported that the President mentioned the peace process and the importance of the establishment of a Palestinian state. The two leaders also discussed the issues of Iran and its nuclear program, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Maariv reported that yesterday Amos Gilad, the head of the Defense Ministry's diplomatic-security bureau, discussed the Shalit affair with Egyptian Cabinet ministers. Maariv also reported that a few days after the Gaza-bound flotilla incident, Hamas declined a request by the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Gilad Shalit, even though it knew about Israel's intention to ease the blockade. Media reported that the Eshkol Regional Council, in whose jurisdiction the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra was slated to play on July 5 in order to seek the improvement of Shalit's jailing conditions, canceled the event for political reasons. The organizers are looking for an alternative venue.

HaQaretz reported that yesterday in Jerusalem Russian FM Sergey Lavrov met with FM Lieberman, PM Netanyahu, and President Shimon Peres. The two foreign ministers appeared to disagree on many issues, including the attitude of Russia toward Hamas, as well as the question of progress in the negotiations with the Palestinians. Lieberman told Lavrov during their meeting that Israel is opposed to links between Russia and Hamas, while the Russian minister stressed that there is no option but to hold a dialogue with Hamas because of the group's popularity among the Palestinian population, especially in Gaza.

Leading media reported that starting today, Israel will let in 150 trucks per day into Gaza, a 50 percent increase over the number before the Government's decision to ease the civilian blockade. The Jerusalem Post cited the concern of the Israeli defense establishment that the Government will cave in to growing international pressure to permit Palestinians to export goods from Gaza.

The Web site Walla! reported that various settler councils are planning to launch a campaign against PM Netanyahu over the moratorium on settlement construction. As part of the campaign, the settlers will place ads against him, headlined: "This time we will wake up in time. Bibi is trampling the settlement enterprise." The settlers are concerned that in the PM's trip to the U.S. next week,

he is liable to capitulate again to American pressure and to announce a continuation of the construction freeze.

The Jerusalem Post quoted Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan as saying Monday in a television interview with Charlie Rose that Israel must apologize for its treatment of the Gaza Strip before it can continue peace talks with Syria. Erdogan threatened that without Israel apologizing for the Gaza blockade, Turkey will not continue to play a mediator role in the indirect talks. Yediot quoted a senior Turkish governmental source as saying yesterday in an interview with the Financial TimesQ Web site: QThe IDF will not be able to fly over Turkey Q neither to Auschwitz nor to Disneyland.

Israel Radio reported that an IDF officer told a Lebanese officer that the Sheba Farms dispute will be resolved only when a peace treaty is signed between the two nations. The Lebanese officer reportedly replied that Israel must withdraw from the area at once. Yediot quoted Hizbullah as saying that Israel has controlled LebanonQs communications infrastructure for years,

The Jerusalem Post reported that a Palestinian committee that was recently formed to find ways to end the crisis between Hamas and Fatah has disbanded after concluding that the gap between the rival parties is unbridgeable. The panel, which was headed by independent businessman Munib al-Masri, was formed immediately after the flotilla aid ship incident in late May.

The Jerusalem Post and the important International Trade Union Confederation has rejected a call to boycott Israel and even vowed to support cooperation between the Histadrut Labor Federation and the Palestinian trade union federation.

The Jerusalem Post reported that visiting Bulgarian FM Nikolai Mladenov told President Shimon Peres yesterday that the ties between the two countries come from an emotional connection, not economic interests. Mladenov was also quoted as saying that QIsraelQs security affects EuropeQs and BulgariaQs security.

All media reported that yesterday, in what firefighters called the worst day of wildfires since the Second Lebanon War, around 300,000 trees in forests across the country burned down, and that police suspect that some of the fires were set by arsonists. The Jewish National Fund said it would take 50 years to regenerate the forests.

The Jerusalem Post quoted the OECD as saying yesterday that Israel must drop its protectionist agricultural policies.

Maariv reported that in light of discovery of natural gas in the eastern Mediterranean , the new power station in Ashkelon will be gas-operated.

The Jerusalem Post and Makor Rishon-Hatzofe cited the results of a poll released yesterday and conducted jointly from June 6 to 16 by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah and the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of

Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: In the wake of last month's deadly raid on the Gaza-bound protest flotilla, Israelis and Palestinians alike are increasingly doubtful that a Palestinian state can be achieved. (Two-thirds of the Israeli and Palestinian participants said the chances for an independent Palestinian state within the next five years were low, if not nonexistent.)

Palestinians demonstrated a surge of support for Turkey, but not for Syria or Iran. In the wake of last month's deadly raid on the Gaza-bound protest flotilla, Israelis and Palestinians alike are increasingly doubtful that a Palestinian state can be achieved, according to a joint Israeli-Palestinian poll released on Tuesday.

Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. QAhead of the Netanyahu-Obama Meeting

Zalman Shoval, a senior Likud member and former ambassador to the U.S., wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (6/30): QThe temporary construction freeze in Judea and Samaria [i.e. the West Bank] and the reduction of construction in Jerusalem, along with Israel's acceptance of the proximity talks, have taken -- even momentarily -- the sting out of disagreements on issues such as Jerusalem, the borders, and the character of the Palestinian entity that Washington wishes to promote. The Palestinians' principal goal at the Qproximity talksQ is to bring about their failure and present Israel as the culprit. They will later want the U.S. administration to force an arrangement of its own, which the Palestinians believe not unjustifiably Q will be closer to their positions than to Israel's. The Prime Minister is aware of those scenarios; in his White House meetings he will unequivocally clarify what Israel views as possible Q or impossible.

II. QOren's Vital Credibility

Diplomatic correspondent Herb Keinon wrote on page one of the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (6/30): QNewspapers around the world ran reports Monday quoting Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Michael Oren, as saying at a Foreign Ministry briefing in Jerusalem last week there was a Qtectonic riftQ in U.S.-Israeli ties. These reports were based on two stories that appeared Sunday in the Hebrew media.... Which raises an important question: what in the world is going on here? Clearly someone briefed the Hebrew papers, and -- apparently -- was a bit free and loose with what Oren said. So why would someone leak an erroneous quote? The possible explanations are as varied as the continents. The first is that it was a simple mistake, and that the person who leaked the information simply did not understand what Oren meant. Stuff happens. The second is that someone was deliberately trying to poison Netanyahu's visit before he travels to Washington.... A third explanation is that the Foreign Ministry is an institution like all other institutions, full of internal jealousies and rivalries -- only even

more so.... There is, of course, another explanation, that what was leaked and reported was indeed what Oren said. However, using the words tectonic rift to describe U.S.-Israel ties run contrary to what Oren said he believes, which is that there is no crisis with the U.S.

III. Why Aid the Enemy?

Efraim Inbar, Professor of Political Science at Bar-Ilan University and Director of the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies, wrote in The Jerusalem Post (6/30): Bowing to misguided international pressure, particularly from the West, the Government lifted nearly three years of restrictions on civilian goods allowed into Hamas-ruled Gaza. The restrictions had been imposed in

reaction to the repeated launching of missiles into the Negev. This decision hardly makes any strategic sense because it helps Hamas, an ally of revolutionary Islamist Iran. Both are anti-Western forces focused on destroying the Jewish state. The easing of the blockade reflects the success of a Hamas propaganda campaign to depict the situation in Gaza as a humanitarian disaster.... Instead of easing the blockade, the Government should have announced its intention to exercise its sovereign right to close the border with Gaza and halt the transfer of any goods to its enemy within several months. Israel must make clear to the world that it refuses to accept responsibility for the welfare of Gazan residents, particularly since they are employing violence against the Jewish state. The period leading up to the actual border closure should be used to establish alternative routes of supply via Egypt, which also borders Gaza. (This article was first published on the Web site www.bitterlemons.org.)

IV. Crippled Committee

Legal commentator Ze'ev Segal wrote on page one of the independent, left-leaning HaAretz (6/30): The restrictions the Government imposed on the panel [of investigation it appointed] does not attest to a genuine desire to get to the bottom of what happened [with the Gaza-bound flotilla].... [Retired judge Yaakov] Turkel wants his panel to be reconstituted as a governmental inquiry committee like the one into the Second Lebanon War, with full investigative powers. That would also be an opportunity to add members with expertise in relevant fields. Currently, the Turkel Committee is crippled, dependent entirely on the government's goodwill. Such a panel does no honor to its members.

V. Having the Last Laugh

Liberal columnist and television anchor Ofer Shelach wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/30): What Netanyahu and Barak wanted was wholly directed inwardly; look, we formed a commission [on the May 31 naval incident]; it has not helped and the entire world is still against us -- so back off with the criticism.... [But] the appointment and the limited powers may turn out to be a double-edged sword.... The sense will be that even people who were selected carefully -- including statements made in advance by [commission

head Yaakov] Turkel to the effect that there was no need for personal conclusions -- are incapable of remaining silent in the face of the folly that was revealed to them. All this still lies in wait for us, and the expansion of the makeup and powers of the committee will only postpone the submission of its report.

VI. QCommission with a Bite

Legal commentator Boaz Okun, who was Director of Israel's Courts from 2004 to 2006, wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/30): QThe change that Judge Turkel wants in the definition of the commission [probing the Gaza-bound flotilla events] -- a governmental commission of inquiry rather than an investigative committee -- is not just a cosmetic change.... Whereas earlier [those responsible for the flotilla flop] could be indifferent to the committee's working and unify their ranks, now they will move into defense alert mode; they will go to the trouble of getting lawyers, they will learn the relevant material, they will prepare for questioning sessions, and at the appropriate time, they will accuse each other for the various things that went wrong. That said, it should be remembered that the current mandate of the committee is limited.

VII. QRemember Entebbe?

Prominent liberal author A.B. Yehoshua wrote in Yediot Aharonot (6/30): QIf [at Entebbe] Israel did not hesitate to risk the lives of many Israelis in order to free hostages, and indeed risked their lives in practice, there is no reason in a situation in which there is no military option -- for it not to take a risk that is theoretical for the time being, in order to free a kidnapped soldier who has been in prison for four years, and if not freed, he is liable to end his life there.

VIII. QMakeup Exam

Diplomatic correspondent Aluf Benn wrote in HaQaretz (6/30): QStatesmanship does not only entail an exchange of accusations with the Palestinian Authority. A statesman is supposed to lead, to shepherd, set out a path -- not just warn of the dangers and slander an adversary, as the Prime Minister is doing. Now Netanyahu has a chance to correct his error, a sort of makeup exam on the subject of leadership. On Tuesday he is due to visit the White House, where Obama will ask him where he is headed. If Netanyahu goes to Washington and tells the Americans there is no one to talk to and they don't know what to talk about, that Abbas is a Holocaust denier and leftist professors are the enemy, he might as well stay home and continue his futile governance until the next crisis hits. But if he actually intends on making a move, he has an extraordinary opportunity to do so.... The Prime Minister is at the height of his power and capable of choosing from a variety of options: A Palestinian state with provisional borders, final-status negotiations and peace with Syria. If only he would make a decision and not recant immediately afterward, Obama would stand beside him. But in the meantime, Netanyahu is showing no signs of change. On the contrary, he is moving backward, to the days of Yitzhak Shamir

and his efforts to buy time. It would behoove him to come to his senses and take advantage of the rare opportunity before him, because there's a chance he will not have another chance at a do-over.

IX. QIs This What Israel Has to Offer?

Palestinian-American columnist and peace activist Ray Hanania wrote in The Jerusalem Post (6/30): QIt seems the controversies and pain in Palestinian-Israeli relations never end.... There is a choice, though. Israelis could push their government to do the right thing. Instead of LiebermanQs blueprint [which he expounded on 6/25 in a Jerusalem Post op-ed], Israelis could rethink the proposals Ehud Barak supposedly offered during the failed non-face-to-face peace talks with Yasser Arafat. The Qbest offerQ was far from great and all it lacked was just a little more creative compassion to work. Share Jerusalem. More importantly, Israelis could overcome the obstacle that made BarakQs offer impossible for Arafat to accept by recognizing and addressing fairly the rights of the Palestinian refugees. But that option is missing one ingredient. A leader with courage.... A new era of cooperation could eliminate all of the conflict and one day we all may look back at today and wonder how this insanity all came to be.

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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:

Electronic media reported on PM Benjamin Netanyahu's arrival in Washington and his scheduled meetings with U.S. President Barack Obama and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Major media reported that Netanyahu is seeking White House backing to ease into direct peace talks with the Palestinians. The PM also reportedly hopes to use the meeting with Obama to reach a consensus on settlement freeze. A Maariv headline reads: "An American Embrace." The Jerusalem Post quoted DM Ehud Barak as saying that Israel must present the U.S. with a peace initiative in order to save relations between the two countries.

Leading media reported that yesterday the U.S. has welcomed Israel's announcement yesterday that it greatly increased the list of items allowed into Gaza. The Jerusalem Post quoted Tommy Vietor, a White House spokesman, as saying: "We believe the list of restricted goods for Gaza announced today will make a significant improvement in the lives of people in Gaza, while keeping weapons out of the hands of Hamas." "This is an important step in implementing the new policy announced by Israel two weeks ago," he added. He said Obama "looks forward to discussing" the matter during his Oval Office talks with Netanyahu.

All media reported that yesterday tens of thousands participated in the march organized by the supporters of the campaign to release Gilad Shalit, reaching central Tel Aviv. Thousands of people attended a special Israel Philharmonic Orchestra concert held for Shalit along the Gaza border. Media noted that Nili Priel, the wife of DM Barak, joined the marchers yesterday. Maariv reported that American Jews -- "apparently close to the U.S. administration" -- have proposed that former U.S. President Bill Clinton visit Shalit.

The media reported that during their Jerusalem meeting yesterday, DM

Ehud Barak and Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad agreed to maintain a direct line of communications. Hamas protested against the meeting. On Sunday The Jerusalem Post quoted senior U.S. officials as saying on Friday that significant progress had been made in Israeli-Palestinian proximity talks.

Major media reported that leaders of coalition factions held an emergency meeting yesterday, declaring their objection to extending the construction freeze in the West Bank. At the same time Knesset members Carmel Shama (Likud) and Uri Ariel (National Union) said they would postpone a vote on their proposal to transfer the responsibility for extending the freeze from the cabinet to the Knesset -- effectively giving the Knesset power to veto an extension of the construction freeze -- until after PM Netanyahu returns from the U.S. They did so to avoid embarrassing Netanyahu during his meeting with President Obama today, and to enable the Knesset members to examine the kind of pressure Obama would apply. In an unrelated development, leading media reported that yesterday the leaders of the right-wing parties National Union Q the New National Religious Party and the Jewish Home (Habayit Hayehudi) announced their decision to merge in the next national elections.

On Sunday The Jerusalem Post cited the pan-Arab daily Al-Hayat as saying on Saturday that P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas has agreed that the Western Wall and the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem remain under Israeli sovereignty in the context of a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

The media quoted Turkish FM Ahmet Davutoglu as saying in an article published on Sunday in the Turkish daily Hurriyet that "Israelis have three options: they will either apologize or acknowledge an international-impartial inquiry and its conclusion. Otherwise, our diplomatic ties will be cut off." Davutoglu was quoted as saying that during his secret meeting last week in Brussels with Industry, Trade, and Labor Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, "We showed them an exit road. If they apologize as a result of their own investigation's conclusion, that would be fine for us. But of course we first have to see it." Major media reported that yesterday in Madrid, Syrian President Bashar Assad warned that the deterioration in relations between Israel and Turkey could negatively impact the entire Middle East, as it would prevent the latter from being able to continue in its role as peace mediator. The media quoted FM Avigdor Lieberman as saying in Riga yesterday that Israel will not apologize to Turkey for the Free Gaza Flotilla incident. Maariv reported that the U.N. Human Rights Council intends to establish a commission to deal with the flotilla case -- to be directed by Judge Phillip Kirsch, the President of the International Criminal Court.

Media cited a report by the Israeli NGO BQTselem that was published yesterday and says that 21% of the settlements were built on private Palestinian land. Right-wing critics of the organization accuse it of trying to mar Netanyahu's visit to Washington.

HaQaretz reported that the Israeli defense establishment is demanding that the State delay approval for the construction of gas

reception terminals on a strip of Israel's coastline pending an examination of the facility's security risk notably from Hizbullah.

Yediot reported that tomorrow the Polish authorities will decide on whether to extradite to Germany Uri QBrodskyQ of QBrodetzky,Q the Israeli allegedly involved in the faking of a German passport in the Mahmoud al-Mabhouh assassination affair.

Maariv quoted Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz as saying privately that he intends to cut 4 billion shekels (above 1 billion U.S. dollars) in the defense budget.

Maariv reported on an Arab campaign to resettle Jews in Arab states.

The media reported that soldiers from the Nahal Brigade posted a video clip on the YouTube Web site showing them dancing on a deserted Hebron Street to the sound of an American pop song, while apparently on patrol. HaQaretz reported that the soldiers are expected to be disciplined.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Octavia Nasr, CNNQs Mideast affairs editor, hailed LebanonQs late Ayatollah Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah on her Twitter account, as Qone of HizbullahQs giants.

Yediot reported that the Eritrean authorities send thousands of infiltrators to Israel in order to replenish their coffers: they levy 1,200 U.S. dollars from each of them for a visa and deduct taxes from his salary that is sent from Israel.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. QAn Opportunity to Mend Relations

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (7/6): QNetanyahuQs meeting with Obama also presents a welcome opportunity to push for progress in talks with the Palestinians -- progress that the prime minister has made clear Israel needs, as it seeks to guarantee its Jewish, democratic future alongside what it must be certain would be a peaceful, stable Palestinian state. Arguably more than any other politician, Netanyahu is capable, either by juggling the disparate elements of the present coalition or by leading an alternative coalition with Kadima, of maintaining consensual Israeli support for substantive advances toward an accord with the Palestinian Authority -- if, that is, the PA proves genuinely committed to reconciliation with the Jewish state. The Prime Minister has neutralized hard-line elements of the LikudQs Central Committee unwilling to acquiesce to territorial compromise.... All that said, Israel, which would have to make wrenching territorial compromises in support of any accord, is still uncertain of the peacemaking credentials of P.A. President Mahmoud

Abbas and [Prime Minister Salam] Fayyad. Fayyad is constructing the institutions of a Palestinian state, but would that state be committed to permanent peaceful relations with Israel?... Netanyahu could, perhaps, manage to convince his coalition partners to agree to keep in place a partial building freeze outside the large settlement blocs when the present moratorium expires, provided the P.A. agreed to direct talks and the U.S. reiterated the Bush administration's recognition that Israel would retain those blocs under any future agreement. But in parallel, with the blockade designed to weaken Hamas in Gaza now largely removed, new strategies must be developed toward ending Hamas's rule. Otherwise, even if reaching an accord becomes possible, implementing it will not be.

II. QSurvival Is Not an Objective

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (7/6): QWith the invitation he has extended [to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu], Obama is demonstrating his dedication to commitments made in his Cairo address, during which he pledged to end the Middle East conflict. Reports emerging from Washington suggest the White House is trying to calm the ill wind that has polluted the Obama-Netanyahu relationship, and is going out of its way to show the guest from Jerusalem a warm welcome.... Having declared that the creation of a Palestinian state is a foremost Israeli interest, Netanyahu is now obligated to seize any opportunity to reach that goal. The prime minister must not squander the occasion presented by his meeting with Obama by haggling over a settlement freeze; he must present objectives that are both courageous and realistic.

III. QObama Went, Now It's Bibi's Go

Diplomatic correspondent Aluf Benn wrote in Ha'aretz (7/6): QNow that Obama has made his move on the Iranian front, it is Netanyahu's turn to give him something on the Palestinian front.... The two men's weakness lies in the international front, not at home. Obama needs an achievement to show the world that America is not lost. Netanyahu wants to reverse Israel's growing international isolation. Here is a basis for understanding -- which will remain discreet if achieved. Netanyahu will not announce an extension of the freeze two-and-a-half months in advance, avoiding pressure and leaving some wiggle room in talks with the Palestinians. Obama will make no promises he would find difficult to keep. The visit will generate no big headlines. Its results will only emerge at the end of summer.

IV. QWhat Do the Palestinians Really Want

Zalman Shoval, a senior Likud member and former ambassador to the U.S., wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (7/6): QAbu Mazen's only goal in the current Qproximity talksQ is for them to fail and Israel to be presented as the culprit, so that Washington raise proposals of its own -- offers that he supposes will be closer to the Palestinian positions. This is the direction of the current Palestinian leadership. It is no fluke that when he addressed Israeli reporters, his aim was American public opinion no less than

Israelis (including praise for the U.S. soccer team).... One should add the Palestinians' trend -- starting from the days of Oslo -- to produce rifts and splinters in Israeli society. It therefore appears that we still have no real partner for peace. This is too bad.

V. Netanyahu-Obama : 1-1 Tie

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 (7/6): [Netanyahu] cannot afford a direct clash with Obama, but at most to repel the balls kicked by Obama and try to keep the Israeli goal. Up till now Netanyahu has succeeded in doing so despite the huge gap. He forcefully manages to maintain a tie. However, if you keep playing a defensive game, the stage of penalties will eventually come. It's not worth getting there.

VI. Lift the Blockade on Us All

Liberal author David Grossman wrote in an expansive front-page article in HaAretz (7/6): [Instead of insisting for years on the number and identity of the Hamas prisoners who will go free in exchange for the release of Gilad Shalit -- prisoners whom Israel will release in the end in any case, in one agreement or another -- perhaps Israel should now turn to Hamas with a far broader and more daring offer. An offer of a memorandum of understanding that will include a total cease-fire, an end to total terror activities from Gaza, and a lifting of the siege. An agreement in which the issue of Gilad Shalit and the Hamas prisoners will only be one clause among many, one that will be implemented first, immediately upon the start of negotiations. It is clear that in the familiar situation -- in other words, the situation as we are accustomed to seeing it -- such an idea sounds unrealistic, but is it really so unrealistic? With the help of foreign mediators, are Israel and the Hamas Government really incapable of reaching a partial but effective agreement of this type?.... It is not unrealistic to assume that the most effective way to reduce the power and influence of Hamas in Gaza and to gradually restore it to its natural dimensions will be to create conditions of peace, prosperity, and nation building among the Palestinians in the West Bank. If even some Gazans will have some hope about their future, the attraction of fundamentalism and religious and nationalist fanaticism will decline on its own.

2. U.S.-Israel Relations:

Block Quotes:

Some Advice for Bibi

Eytan Haber, veteran op-ed writer and assistant to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, opined in the mass-circulation, pluralist

Yediot Aharonot (7/6): QOnce, [in 1998,] during one of the very unsuccessful events in your [first] term, in a great bout of exaggeration, you called the Western Wall Tunnel the Qrock of our existence.Q You know better than any of us how much our diplomatic, security, economic, and domestic existence depends on the United States. The young man [President Obama] next to whom you will be sitting in the Oval Office today is the Qrock of our existence. At this time, nobody knows this better than you, Good luck.

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SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

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

Key stories in the media:

The Israeli media conveyed an upbeat mood after yesterday's White House meeting between PM Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Barack Obama. Banners: HaQaretz (English Ed.): QObama-Netanyahu Summit Focuses on Warm Relations, Avoid SettlementsQ; The Jerusalem Post: QObama Tells Netanyahu He's Ready to Come to IsraelQ; Yediot: QThe Warm ShoulderQ; Maariv: QBuilding ConfidenceQ; Israel Hayom: QObama: QOne More Chapter in the Extraordinary Friendship between Our Two CountriesQQ and Makor Rishon-Hatzofe: QThe U.S. Recognizes Israel's Deterrent Weapon.Q The ultra-Orthodox dailies covered the meeting in the same spirit.

Media quoted the President as saying: QI believe that Prime Minister Netanyahu wants peace. I think he's willing to take risks for peace.Q The media cited Obama's determination to counter the Iranian nuclear program and his continued approval of Israel's nuclear deterrence. Speaking on Israel Radio this morning, FM Avigdor Lieberman said that the settlement construction freeze was not a key topic in the meeting and that Netanyahu made no promises in this regard. Media reported that right-wing Knesset members warned that Obama is Qstill evil.

Israel Radio quoted P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas as saying before the Obama-Netanyahu meeting that progress on the proximity talks is needed before the resumption of direct negotiations. The radio quoted chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat as saying that the key to direct talks is in Netanyahu's hands.

HaQaretz reported that yesterday, during the 10th day of his family's march, Noam Shalit, the father of prisoner Gilad Shalit, urged PM Netanyahu to use his powers of persuasion to advance

prospects for a deal during his visit to the White House.

HaQaretz reported that the work of the U.N. Human Rights Council-mandated commission of an investigation into the Free Gaza Flotilla case, headed by Judge Phillip Kirsch, the President of the International Criminal Court, will start today. Yediot reported that before the incident, President Shimon Peres had received Netanyahu's assent to meet with the Turkish President and PM. Leading media quoted IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi as saying yesterday that relations between the Turkish military and the IDF are good. Over the past few days the media quoted Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer (Labor) as saying that DM Ehud Barak leaked the details of his meeting with Turkish PM Ahmet Davutoglu in Brussels.

Yediot quoted visiting U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joe Lieberman (Ind-CT) as saying at a meeting with Deputy FM Daniel Ayalon that there is a 4- to 6-week window to ascertain whether the sanctions on Iran are effective.

HaQaretz and The Jerusalem Post cited a New York Times report published yesterday that over 40 U.S. organizations donate millions of dollars to the settlements and enjoy tax breaks in their country.

All media reported that yesterday a reserve staff sergeant was indicted in the military court of the IDF's court of the IDF's Central Command for the manslaughter of two Palestinian women during Operation Cast Lead.

HaQaretz cited various reports that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's health has seriously been deteriorating.

HaQaretz reported that the Jerusalem Municipality is erecting a concrete eyesore at the Christian holy site of Mary's Fountain in the Western neighborhood of Ein Kerem.

Yediot reported that P.A. President Abbas is interested in receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

Leading media reported that the YouTube "soldiers" dance in Hebron video has received positive reviews in the foreign media. Yediot reported that the soldiers will not be reprimanded and that the Foreign Ministry complimented the QPR gig.

Major media reported that a Hizbullah cell composed of Lebanese immigrants that planned to strike U.S. and Israeli targets in North

The Jerusalem Post reported that prominent U.S. actors Meg Ryan and Dustin Hoffman pulled out of the Jerusalem Film Festival over the Free Gaza Flotilla incident.

Media reported that 232 immigrants from North America will land in Israel today.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. QAnother Chance

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote on page one of the independent Israel Hayom (7/7) : QA cautious observer will pose two questions to himself, which have no immediate answer: What was said on the difficult issues that have remained obscure, such as the future of the construction freeze in the settlements and Netanyahu's assurance to carry out confidence building measures in the near future, which will enable Abu Mazen to renew the direct negotiations before September? And will the smiling and friendly attitude that the Americans showed towards Israel not dissipate in light of the Arab offensive that will not be late in coming, at the sight of these photos?... As of now, it is clear that both sides wish to convey a sense of Qbusiness as usual and an end to the crisis period. Obama joined an important demand by Israel to accelerate the direct negotiations within about two months. How long will this last? Will it only be until the U.S. Congressional elections in November? There are matters that at the present stage can only end in a question mark.

II. QA President Now Working with the Premier, not against Him

Diplomatic correspondent Herb Keinon wrote on page one of the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (7/7) : QNobody knows yet what Obama told Netanyahu behind closed doors Tuesday regarding extending the settlement moratorium or building in Jerusalem or any number of other contentious issues that separates the two sides. But outside, in the glare of the cameras, the dramatic change of tone from the last time the two leaders fielded questions together indicated an Obama who seems to have realized that the public path he has followed up until now with Israel and Netanyahu has not worked, and it was time -- using that suddenly very popular phrase to characterize relations between nations -- to Qpush reset.

III. QObama's New Approach

Eytan Gilboa, a political science professor at Bar-Ilan University and a specialist on U.S.-Israeli relations, wrote on Ynet, the leading news Web site associated with the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (7/7) : QIn all the previous meetings between the two, the U.S. President criticized the Prime Minister, reprimanded him, pressed him, and in some cases even humiliated him. The U.S. administration also made an effort to highlight the disagreements between the sides and the President's dissatisfaction with the prime minister and his policy. Yet in the latest meeting, the tables were turned. Obama lauded Netanyahu and his policy, treated him with respect, and stressed the areas of agreement with him. Both leaders characterized their meeting as excellent and lavished gratitude and praise at each other. The change in Obama's attitude stems from a combination of diplomatic and political

elements. The strategy of exerting bruQI pressure on the Prime Minister and creating a crisis in U.S.-Israel relations did not produce the hoped-for results, did not improve AmericaQs status in the Arab and Muslim world, did not promote talks between Israel and the Palestinians, and did not prompt strategic shifts in NetanyahuQs policy. The opposite was true: AmericaQs status deteriorated, aQng other things because its Arab allies wondered whether this is the kind of attitude accorded to (as Obama himself characterized it) AmericaQs most important Middle East ally. Meanwhile, the Palestinians reached the conclusion that they need not do a thing -- the U.S. will do the job for them and elicit all the concessions they demanded from Israel.... The message to the Palestinians is that they must stop looking for excuses and enter direct negotiations with Israel.... Netanyahu is interested in direct talks, in restoring the ties with America, and in boosting his coalition. Only towards the end of the year shall we be able to determine whether the meeting indeed reflected a new chapter of cooperation in U.S.-Israel relations, or merely a lull between periods of disagreement, tensions, and crises.

IV. QThe Odd Couple

Columnist Nadav Eyal, who is also Channel 10-TV Foreign News Editor, wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (7/7) : QObamaQs approach, which was intended to make Netanyahu fold, led the Arab leaders to adopt tougher stances. Enthusiastically, or with a sense of duty, they all get up on their high horses and settled there comfortably, waiting for the U.S. President to signal to them that it was time to climb down. What happened? The administration understood that the pressure campaign on Netanyahu had produced the maximum possible results at the present stage, and that continuing it could undermine regional stability. Netanyahu could not be expected to pay a political price and continue the freeze without being able to show a significant diplomatic achievement.

V. QObama Must Learn from History before Making History

Contributor Gil Troy, a professor of history at McGill University on leave in Jerusalem, wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (7/7) : QObama must learn from history. He and his advisers must begin by acknowledging the failures of the last decade. They must end Palestinian incitement. They must end Palestinian incitement. They must prove the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam FayyadQs initial steps toward state-building represent an historic change within Palestinian political culture from seeking IsraelQs destruction to seeking their own nationQs redemption. For all their mistakes, Israelis repeatedly have shown a willingness to accept painful compromises, to take risks for peace. If Obama wants a big Middle Eastern win, he has to show he understands what went wrong in the past and offer a substantive proposal for guaranteeing success in the future. All of us who seek peace should wish him luck. But none of us should settle for presidential rhetoric instead of new, constructive, Palestinian realities.

VI. QChallenge Hamas

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (7/7) : QThe writer David Grossman called on the Government of Israel in these pages yesterday to cease its preoccupation with the number and identity of Palestinian prisoners who would potentially be swapped for captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. Grossman believes Israel should make Hamas a broader offer that would involve a Qtotal cease-fire, an end to all terror activities from Gaza and a lifting of the siege.Q The start of such negotiations would see Shalit and the prisoners exchanged.... [Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu] should revive the idea and challenge Hamas. Israel needs to embark on an initiative that would fundamentally alter the situation along the southern border, without fearing dialogue with Hamas. It must not regard the current situation as simply fate.

VII. QIs the Temple Mount in Our Hands?

Former Mossad Director Ephraim Halevy wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (7/7) : QIsraelQs demand regarded the Western Wall is not based on the fact that the Western Wall in and of itself is a holy place to Judaism. The demand is based on the fact that the Western Wall is a relic of our Temple. Anyone who recognizes our right to the Western Wall, must recognize the fact that the Western Wall is part of a building or series of buildings, to which Jews are connected no less than Muslims. If someone has no right to the building, he has no right to any wall of the same building. Anyone who agrees to dismiss the Israeli connection to the Temple Mount is opening the door to a rejection of any right by the Jewish people to any part of the Land of Israel [Israel, including the territories]. Therefore, IsraelQs insistence on this connection is more vital and fateful than any battle over one settlement or another in Judea and Samaria [i.e. the West Bank]. It is of no use today to try to fathom why all of IsraelQs governments accepted the systematic destruction of the remains of our Temple, which was perpetrated by the Muslims mainly underground in the Temple Mount area since JerusalemQs liberation in 1967.

VIII. QA Responsible Neighbor

Diplomatic correspondent Aluf Benn wrote in HaQaretz (7/7) : QMy man of the week is Syrian President Bashar Assad. His call to calm the crisis in Israeli-Turkish relations seems like a serious attempt to cool the mutual invective between Ankara and Jerusalem.... There is another way out of the entanglement [with Turkey]: move the disagreement from the field of honor to the field of interests, and thereby give both sides an opportunity to emerge from the corner into which they have painted themselves. This is where Assad comes in. The Israeli establishment, which admired Assad senior, tends to disparage his son and depict him as a confused, bumbling child. But that is foolishness and conceit. In his 10 years in power, Bashar Assad has maintained Syria's internal stability and secular character, retaken control of Lebanon, and nurtured Hizbullah as a strategic deterrent against Israel. That is quite a bit.... Erdogan and Netanyahu should listen to their responsible neighbor. They might discover that the road from Ankara to Jerusalem can also run through Damascus.

2. U.S.-Israel Relations:

Block Quotes:

QTemporary Clinginess

Former Consul-General in New York Alon Pinkas wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (7/7) : QPrime Minister Netanyahu, who summed up yesterday a visit that we have all defined as Qwarm, hearty, based on commonalities and highlighting identical interests of allies, failed to understand over the past year and a half the force that motivates Obama and the moral and political fabric from which he is cut. Had he understood this, he would have presented a vision to Obama in one of their first two meetings.... A vision based on Israeli recognition that a strong U.S. means a strong Israel, and that the U.S. as an ally is a vital force multiplier for Israel.... The U.S. President, for his part, failed to understand the fears, the limitations, the shackles, the disappointments, the frustration, and the bitter disillusionment that life in the Middle East has projected on the Israeli existence and psyche. And so it happened that the relationship started out crooked and ended up imbued with toxins and mistrust.

3. Iran:

Block Quotes:

QNot an Accidental Meeting

Editor-in-Chief Amnon Lord wrote in the nationalist, Orthodox Makor Rishon-Hatzofe (7/7) : QIn the month and a half that has elapsed since [the naval incident], Netanyahu has succeeded in doing away with the flotilla affair, and is buoyed on the wave of successes of intensifying sanctions against Iran. President Obama tried in the past year and a quarter to harm Israel in all important diplomatic and strategic areas. He caused the diplomatic process to stall over the freeze issue. He tried to extend a hand of openness and dialogue to the murderous ayatollah regime. He suppressed IsraelQs offensive intentions towards Iran.... YesterdayQs meeting put an end to a great deal of ObamaQs errors. The Prime MinisterQs stance throughout this long and exhausting period paid off. Netanyahu came to the White House after his justification on the Iranian issue was reaffirmed.... Netanyahu, for his part, gave Obama the greatest gift by creating the appearance of a meeting with a great friend of Israel. This may help Obama later on in his term. Obama has not become a friend, and he may harbor a grudge against Netanyahu for leading him to the place that he wanted on the Iranian issue and on the matter of IsraelQs nuclear option. But these two may yet find

themselves navigating together in a partnership, perhaps even beyond 2012.

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SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast

Key stories in the media:

Yediot this morning is reporting that direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are expected to resume on August 1. According to the report, which cites senior Israeli political officials, U.S. President Barack Obama is applying heavy pressure on the Palestinians to consent to the immediate renewal of negotiations, despite the reluctance of the latter. According to the report, Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George Mitchell is scheduled to arrive in Israel this week for another round of proximity talks, with the purported aim of convincing the Palestinians that "it is a shame to waste time."

All Israeli media focused on today's impending release of the Eiland report investigating the IDF's role in the Turkish flotilla events. The newspapers are reporting that the report is expected to include sharp criticism of all military echelons that were involved in the takeover of the Mavi Marmara in late May, but does not include "personal conclusions" against specific officials. Among other things, the report is expected to note flaws in intelligence gathered prior to the operation and in the preparations made for the takeover of the ship. Today's papers point out that the report could negatively impact Navy Commander Maj. Gen. Eliezer Marom and Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, among others.

All media reported that the Israeli Navy is preparing for another ship that is headed for the region. The Amalthea, a Libyan ship that set sail from Greece, is reportedly headed for the Gaza shore, although Greek port officials said that they had received assurances that the ship would dock at El Arish. A source from the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation, which is sponsoring the ship, is quoted in the papers as saying that its destination was Gaza. The ship is said to be bearing 20,000 tons of foodstuffs. On the Israeli side, the Naval Commando has been put on alert for the possibility that the ship will indeed try to reach the Gaza Strip.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. "Needed: More than gestures"

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (7/12): "The package of confidence-building measures that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intends to offer the Palestinians raises questions ... The proposed measures are aimed at bolstering PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad's control of the West Bank. But in practice it more closely resembles camouflage netting whose purpose is to conceal Israel's avoidance of any responsibility in the peace process ... Had this offer come a year ago ... it could have been viewed with seriousness and credibility. Israel has not declared its willingness to discuss the core issues... Netanyahu has also not clarified his position on extending the freeze on construction... And he has not even begun to prepare the Israeli public opinion for the possibility of an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. The steps Netanyahu is proposing are neither policy nor a substitute for it. He cannot ignore his commitment to the peace process and attempt, once again, to portray the Palestinians as the ones refusing peace."

II. "Cut and paste"

Senior op-ed writer Akiva Eldar commented in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (7/12): "Fourteen years before declaring that he'd returned to leadership 'to do something as prime minister,' Netanyahu said in 1996 ... that he would surprise the world the way Menachem Begin had.... Since that time, as we know, the world has been holding its breath. Less than two weeks ago, President Abbas said that during the proximity talks he had handed a very detailed document to Netanyahu on the Palestinian positions regarding borders (and)... had proposed stationing foreign forces in the areas from which Israel would withdraw.... Instead of a pertinent response ... Abbas received general questions, mainly procedural, that disparagingly bypassed the core issues. (In 1996) Shimon Peres said Netanyahu's policies could endanger Israel's existence, no less. Now the Nobel laureate is keeping quiet. He must also be waiting for a surprise a la Menachem Begin. Meanwhile, we're left with Likud MK Benny Begin. As long as he's sitting next to Netanyahu, forget surprises."

III. "Abu Zigzag, Abu Chicken, Abu Ali"

Senior columnist Nahum Barea wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (7/12): "A series of columnists in the Western press attacked Obama for what they perceived as a zigzag... Until yesterday, they were briefed that Netanyahu was an obstacle to peace ... and suddenly he is the president's darling. Obama has not changed a thing in his strategy. He believes that it is possible to reach an Israeli-Palestinian arrangement, and gives this idea very high priority in his foreign policy... The change is only in the mannerisms... Now, he has chosen an opposite course of action: To

embrace... What does not work by force may work by flattery. Obama's wild zigzag lowered the trust in him on the Arab and Muslim street even further, without raising the trust in him on the Israel street.... Indeed, Netanyahu won this time. This victory has extended his government's life span by several months, and portrayed him as the hero of the day. He did not, however, promote an arrangement. As Pyrrhus, the Greek king who defeated the Romans, said: One more such victory and we are doomed."

IV. "Bring him home alive"

Aharon Barnea, who lost his son during a military operation in southern Lebanon in April 1999 wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (7/12): "A group of bereaved families have stated their opposition to releasing terrorists in exchange for Gilad Shalit. As bereaved families, we have a right to speak out. More than that, we have the right to demand to be heard... Freeing Gilad is important first and foremost because he was kidnapped while serving the cause of all of our security... "Strategic" considerations about how Palestinians who are released will behave and predictions that most will return to terror activities are worth no more than other predictions... So let us wish ourselves, and especially the Shalit family, that the wonderful energies of the thousands of people who have joined them on their journey to bring about the release of Gilad will bear fruit, and that we will soon see the hostage safe and sound with us."

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

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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-Israeli Relations
3. Iran

Key stories in the media:

Leading media reported that yesterday in Washington PM Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates consulted on how best to maintain Israel's military edge, particularly after a U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. Israel Radio quoted Netanyahu as saying at a meeting with U.S. Jewish leaders that there is no reason for direct talks with the Palestinians not to start soon. The PM said that the negotiations would include the issue of borders, security, refugees, and water. Netanyahu said that Jerusalem would remain under Israeli sovereignty and that Israel does not want to control the Palestinians but that at the same time it does not want to be threatened by a Palestinian state. Israel Hayom cited DM Ehud Barak's conviction that the successful Obama-Netanyahu meeting will soon be translated into acts. Israel Hayom quoted President Shimon Peres as saying that the meeting represents a very serious opportunity to resume the peace process. The Jerusalem Post reported that the Government coalition was strengthened by the success of the White House meeting.

All media quoted senior IDF officers as saying yesterday that Hizbullah will likely fire close to 800 rockets into Israel every day during a future war, as the Northern Command declassified for the first time evidence of Hizbullah's growing presence inside close to 160 villages throughout southern Lebanon. Using the village of el-Khiam -- located about 4 km. north of the border -- as an example, the IDF showed extensive footage, videos and maps of homes that Hizbullah has taken over and used to store weapons caches and establish command-and-control centers. The declassified material also revealed the location of improvised explosive devices, some of them weighing up to half a ton, which Hizbullah has positioned, mostly at the entrance to the village. The IDF recently dispatched

a delegation to UN headquarters in New York to present the evidence to diplomats. The evidence was also presented to the new commander of UNIFIL, Maj.-Gen. Alberto Asarta Cuevas of Spain. The IDF said that Hizbullah today maintains about 20,000 guerrilla fighters throughout southern Lebanon, whose main objective is to prevent an Israeli ground invasion. The fighters are also responsible for operating Hizbullah's extensive missile capability, which would allow them to strike deep within Israel. Hizbullah has an estimated 40,000 short-, medium- and long-range missiles. The declassification of the material on Wednesday is a demonstration of the IDF's penetration of Hizbullah and Israeli efforts to collect intelligence on the Iranian-backed Shiite terror group. In the maps unveiled by the IDF, Hizbullah weapons caches are shown approximately 50 meters from schools and hospitals. Storage and command centers are in most cases located inside or adjacent to civilian homes. The Jerusalem Post quoted a senior IDF officer as saying: "It is important to show the world that Hizbullah has built up its military infrastructure inside villages, with the objective that we will kill the maximum amount of civilians in a future conflict. We want to warn that if we are attacked by Hizbullah -- this may happen." Maariv reported that yesterday the IDF identified Hassan Mahdawi, a senior member of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, as the successor of the slain Imad Mughniyah as Hizbullah's military leader. The media cited the IDF's belief that the chances of a war in the north in the summer are low.

The media reported that PM Netanyahu will leave for Egypt immediately after his visit to the U.S. to meet with President Hosni Mubarak. HaQaretz reported that the Egyptian media and official spokesmen avoided commenting on a report in the daily that Mubarak has cancer.

The media reported that the Shalit family's march is entering its 12th and last day, terminating at PM Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem. Following the rally there, 20,000 supporters are expected to descend on Jerusalem's Independence Park. HaQaretz reported that Arab residents of the Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah who have been evicted from their homes will join the march.

All media reported that a Polish court ruled yesterday that an Israeli man -- whose passport identified him as Uri Brodsky -- suspected of involvement in the assassination of top Hamas official Mahmoud al-Mabhouh can be extradited to Germany. Israel had asked Poland not to comply with the German extradition request. The Polish judge in charge of the case said that the suspect would be extradited on suspicion of forgery and not on espionage charges, noting that spying against Germany is not a crime in Poland. The suspect has three days to appeal the ruling.

Major media reported that the Obama administration has revealed to the public, during PM Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington, a series of understandings between the two countries on Israel's policy of "nuclear ambiguity" -- which to date had been kept under wraps. At the center of these understandings lies an Israeli veto on the holding of an international conference for a nuclear-free Middle East, as well as an unprecedented American willingness to

cooperate with Israel in the field of nuclear power for civil use.

Maariv reported that PM Netanyahu has offered opposition leader Tzipi Livni a position of principal negotiator with the Palestinians, as well as many ministerial posts to Kadima. Media cited a denial by the PMQs bureau.

Maariv and other media reported that Israeli security and the FBI are investigating the disappearance of four guns that never reached Washington.

Yediot reported that the Eiland commission investigating the military aspects of Free Gaza Flotilla events will not issue personal recommendations against senior figures who appeared before it. However, the Eiland report contains damning details about the conduct of the military in the affair. Israel Hayom reported that yesterday PM Netanyahu told the U.N. Secretary-General to abandon the idea of an international commission of investigation into the incident, since the Israeli one was sufficient. The Jerusalem Post reported that the U.N.Qs headquarters, both in New York and Geneva, want to investigate the incident.

HaQaretz reported that Religious Zionist rabbis have called for a mass demonstration in Jerusalem on Monday night to protest what they say is police harassment and an attempt to keep them away from the Temple Mount.

Major media reported that hundreds of Israeli professors and academics have signed a petition slamming Education Minister SaQarQs stated intention to take action against professors who support an academic support an academic boycott of Israel.

1. Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. QNetanyahuQs Second Chance

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (7/8): QThe close ties with the United States are Israel's strategic support, and it is difficult to overstate their importance to Israel's survival, security and prosperity. If Netanyahu came under justified criticism for his role in damaging relations with the Obama administration over the past year, he can feel content with these efforts at rehabilitation. But don't get confused: Obama's gestures of friendship, which can be partly attributed to the impending congressional elections, do not change anything about the administration's basic policy.... Netanyahu must take advantage of the chance he has been given, say yes to Obama, and act seriously and swiftly to end the occupation and establish an independent Palestine. But his appearance at the White House on Tuesday raises doubt if he will do so. Netanyahu was careful not to make any statement deviating from the political line of the watchful right

wing.... Obama says he believes Netanyahu wants peace and is ready to take risks for it. Now it's the Prime Minister's turn to prove, in words and in deed, that he is worthy of this belief and is not merely trying, as is his wont, to gain more time in power without taking the peace process forward.

II. QAn Excellent Meeting

Far left columnist Gideon Levy wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (7/8): QTwo statesmen met in Washington on Tuesday who are looking smaller and smaller, who are taking smaller and smaller steps. They have decided not to decide, which in itself is a decision. When the chance of a two-state solution has long since entered injury time, they have decided on more extra time. Get ready for the binational state, or the next round of bloodletting.

III. QAn Indictment against the Previous Government

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (7/8): QYesterday, in an unprecedented fashion, the IDF exposed HizbullahQs build-up against Israel, very close to its northern border.... From the moment the Commission of Investigation headed by Eliyahu Winograd concluded its report on the [Second Lebanon] War, [former Prime Minister] Ehud Olmert and [former IDF Chief of Staff] Dan Halutz acted to overturn the image storm; they made the defeat sound like an unambiguous military and diplomatic achievement.

2. U.S-Israel Relations:

Block Quotes:

I. QEven If ItQs Not All True, I Believe It

Washington-based columnist Douglas Bloomfield wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (7/8): QIQve been getting a lot of e-mails, and you probably have been too, hysterically accusing the Obama administration of deliberately and dangerously undermining IsraelQs security.... One of the latest revealed that President Barack Obama personally dispatched the CIA to Dubai to film the assassination of a Hamas leader so he could wage a PR campaign Qto discredit Israel.Q What these mailings lack in accuracy, they more than compensate for with hyperbole, ignorance, fear, and loathing for the President of the United States. At the risk of disappointing the legion of Obama haters, the U.S.-Israel security relationship is doing very well and getting better. The two military and intelligence establishments have been working closely and productively despite recent blips on the political and diplomatic front. Even the political and personal relationship between Obama and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is getting better, according to Martin Indyk, the former U.S. Ambassador to Israel, with the two leaders Qdevelop[ing] a constructive working

relationship sensitive to the legitimate concerns of the otherQ....
One friction point, however, is the administrationQs unexpected
support for Arab demands that a report on the Nuclear
Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) include a call for Israel to sign the
treaty.... Hatred of Obama and the rightist ideology that equates
all criticism of Israeli policy with hatred of Israel itself, not
QfactsQ most Israeli experts say are bunk, are whatQs driving the
drive littering your e-mail box.

II. QIsrael Is Waiting for Palin

Liberal columnist Larry Derfner wrote in the conservative,
independent Jerusalem Post (7/8): QThe American Right and the
Israeli Right against the world -- how far can they get? The Likud
thinks the Republicans will prop them up? Instead, theyQll drag each
other down. TheyQll be like Thelma and Louise, holding hands as
they drive over the cliff. But thatQs at least a few years away.
In the meantime, Israel is becoming an ever more powerful Qwedge
issueQ for the Republicans. It goes like this: either youQre for
Israel or youQre for the Democrats, you canQt be both. Put another
way: either youQre for the Republicans or youQre for the terrorists,
you have to choose one. The message is working well and itQs cost
Obama a lot of support -- mainly among Jews but also among
middle-of-the-road gentiles. And it is, indeed, forcing Americans
who love Israel -- including those who donQt hate Muslims and
liberals Q to choose sides. For this wing of the pro-Israel
community, the choice goes like this: either youQre against Palin,
Gingrich, Rush Limbaugh, Fox News, Pastor John Hagee and all the
other Republicans who just love the direction IsraelQs going in, or
youQre for the Netanyahu governmentQs policies -- you canQt be both.
Put another way: either you want Israel to remain a part of the
democratic world, or you want to change the Likud-led,
Republican-backed, belligerent, separatist direction itQs going in
-- you canQt have both. American, Israeli, whoeverQs interested --
you have to choose.

3. Iran:

Block Quotes:

I. QAnatomy of a Successful Summit

Avraham (Avi) Ben-Zvi, visiting Professor of Political Science at
Haifa University and an expert in U.S.-Israel relations, wrote in
the independent Israel Hayom (7/8): QObamaQs aspiration to prevent
damage to the basis of Jewish support for him has combined with his
learning and sobering-up process from past illusions., particularly
regarding Iran. Considering the recognition of the expanding
Iranian threat, it is not surprising that the President has stressed
the U.S. commitment to IsraelQs security and that he has strenuously
turned down the possibility that Israel be asked to take steps that
may jeopardize its security.... It is not certain whether the
metamorphosis experienced by the President stems from tactical

cost-efficiency calculations or from an adjustment between his world view to a tangible reality.... The picture will probably brighten towards the end of the year and following the mid-term Congressional elections.

II. QIsrael Must Not Give Up a Military Attack on Iran

Columnist Assaf Golan wrote in the editorial of the nationalist, Orthodox Makor Rishon-Hatsofe (7/8): QThe treasure trove of military gifts that Israel received during [Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's] recent visit [to the White House and the Pentagon] appears more as a conscious American attempt to choke any independent Israeli initiative to raid Iranian nuclear installations.... Simple things [such as a possible nuclearization of the region] that, seen from distant Washington, appear to be a far-flung dream. But Israel must not put up with Barack Obama's continued, unprecedented, and irresponsible diplomatic gambling -- in case of a regional nuclear war, it won't be Oklahomans who will be hit.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
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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 Jerusalem Post reported that yesterday in Ramallah, P.A. officials did not rule out the possibility that the P.A. would agree to begin direct negotiations with Israel. This appears to be a departure from its previous position. According to the officials, the P.A. was now inclined to agree to hold direct negotiations, especially following assurances from U.S. President Barack Obama to P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas. For its part, Makor Rishon cited the official P.A. newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida as saying a few days ago that at the Arab League Summit four months ago, Abbas told the Arab leaders that the P.A. would support a war waged against Israel by the Arab states.

Major media led with the military probe into the May 31 Free Gaza Flotilla events, which is headed by Maj. Gen. (res.) Giora Eiland. The investigation found errors in the planning and execution of the IDF operation. Maariv banners: QThere Were Mistakes, but No Culprits.Q The media reported on a Qwar of versionsQ between the Defense MinisterQs Bureau and that of the Chief of Staff over the question of who had warned beforehand of the possible outcome of a raid on the Turkish flotilla to Gaza. HaQaretz reported that the Foreign Ministry has warned the IDF not to board the Libya-commissioned aid ship en route to Gaza in international waters, for fear of legal repercussions.

The media reported that the Jerusalem Municipality has announced the building of 32 housing units in the veteran East Jerusalem neighborhood of Pisgat ZeQev. While some media cited the GOIQs conviction that the move will not affect IsraelQs international relations, other outlets said that this might impinge on relations with the U.S. (Maariv: Obama-Netanyahu Romance under Suspicion.Q) The Jerusalem Post reported that construction has begun on a new section of the West Bank security barrier that Palestinians from the village of Walajeh (south of Jerusalem) say could sound a death knell for their community.

The Jerusalem Post quoted Uzi Arad, the head of Israel's National Security Council, as saying yesterday before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the U.S. is still committed to Israel's security. Arad also said that America's backing of the Mideast non-proliferation resolution does not constitute a change of policy.

Yediot quoted a Palestinian Web site as saying that Shin Bet personnel and a representative of Haggai Hadas, the GOI's point man on Gilad Shalit's release, have met with 4 heavy Hamas prisoners in Israeli jails in order to convince them to accept the Israeli proposal to deport them abroad — as a condition for their release.

The Jerusalem Post cited mounting concerns in the Israeli defense establishment that Hizbullah may be digging tunnels from Lebanon to Israel to attack a border community or IDF outpost. In an unrelated development, Yediot reported that yesterday 91 Israelis who were harmed during the Second Lebanon War sued Al Jazeera-TV for \$1.2 billion in a federal court in New York for aiding Hizbullah bombardments of Israel during that war by pinpointing targets.

Leading media quoted American Jewish leaders as saying that they feel betrayed regarding the Conversion Bill that was about to be voted in the Knesset. PM Benjamin Netanyahu ordered that the bill, which was presented by Yisrael Beiteinu Knesset Member David Rotem, be frozen. Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky also voiced his objection to the bill, the opponents of which said that it might cause a rift among the Jewish people.

The media reported that on Sunday security forces arrested a man from a Druze village on the Golan on suspicion of having committed crimes against state security including contacting foreign agents. The incident turned violent as thousands of locals tried to prevent the police from locating him in the village.

Yediot reported that the Knesset's House Committee is slated to resume a debate on proposed legislation that will require a referendum before a withdrawal from the Golan (Maariv also from other territories). Maariv cited the United States' concern over such a development.

The media reported that the Knesset plenum is slated to vote today on the House Committee decision to revoke some of the parliamentary rights of Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi, who took part in the Turkish flotilla to Gaza. At a meeting of the House Committee last month,

seven MKs voted in favor, while MK Ilan Gilon of Meretz was opposed. In recent weeks, Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin tried to not raise the decision to a vote because he was waiting for the decision of the Attorney-General on whether Zoabi should be indicted. But when the Attorney-General failed to come to a decision, Rivlin announced that he did not have the authority to continue to delay the vote any longer.

Maariv reported that yesterday a bill banning burkas was introduced to the Knesset. The bill calls for 30-day incarceration or a

500-shekel fine (about \$125) for anyone who conceals his or her face in a public place to the extent that they cannot be identified. Anyone who obliges another person to wear a veil that conceals their face will face either six months in prison or fine of NIS 10,000 (slightly above \$2,500). The bill was sponsored by Kadima Knesset Member Marina Solodkin. She argues that veils in Israel not only undermine the principles of a modern society, but also pose a security risk, since hostile elements might exploit them to perpetrate a terrorist attack.

Media cited renewed interest in the fate of Jonathan Pollard.

All media reported that the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court would rule today in the matter of Kadima Knesset Member Tzachi Hanegbi, Chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, who is accused of naming dozens of political cronies to civil service positions while serving as (then Likud) Environmental Protection Minister in the early 2000s. The electronic media later reported that the court decided to acquit Hanegbi of taking election bribes. Moreover, the court acquitted Hanegbi on charges of fraud and breach of trust. Hanegbi was convicted, however, of perjury, for which the maximum penalty is seven years in prison. Israel Radio commentators speculated that Hanegbi remains the best mediator in the formation of a possible national unity government.

HaQaretz reported that two weeks after the deaths of more than 200 people in an oil tanker explosion in Congo, Israeli doctors will be the first specialists sent to treat the dozens of burn victims who survived. Congolese President Joseph Kabila telephoned the Israeli delegation to the region to thank its members last night, but activists said it was too limited in scope to make a lasting impact.

Mideast:

Block Quotes:

I. QContemptuous Washington

Conservative columnist Amos Carmel wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (7/13): QIt looks as if [U.S. President Barack Obama] is looking down on the intelligence of the Israeli citizens. Otherwise, how can one explain his claim that part of our suspicions about him stem from the fact that his middle name is Hussein. We, the Israelis, know this. This [and other biographical facts about him] have not diminished the enthusiastic welcome he received when he came to Israel as a candidate. [But it is as though] we havenQt heard his Cairo address, in which he lavished unequivocal praise on Islam (including the nonsensical claim of its tolerance Qduring the InquisitionQ) and linked the establishment of Israel to the sole Holocaust. Israel didnQt insist on the fact that he overtly avoided making a courtesy call to Israel for a few hours following that speech. Regardless of the suspicion of some Israelis

towards him, he has no implementable formula regarding the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state as well as the annulment of the right of return. Should this happen, we will understand it even if he doesn't address directly. Contrary to what appears to be his working assumption, our intellectual ability isn't particularly low.

II. Don't Avoid Responsibility

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (7/13): [IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi] Ashkenazi, who appointed [retired Maj. Gen. Giora] Eiland [head of a team investigating the May 31 naval operation], is not to blame for this investigative failure, nor is Eiland, whose hands were tied because the army is unable to investigate its superiors or other bodies in the defense establishment. This is the duty of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and their colleagues in the cabinet. The Prime Minister and his ministers thought they were smart and sought to make do with two investigations that are not authorized to touch them. The Eiland team was limited to the military alone. The Turkel Committee is dealing only with the aspects of the flotilla affair concerning international law. One investigation looks at the army and the other at the world; no investigation is looking into the Netanyahu-Barak government. This is cowardly behavior toward the naval commandos and the other troops who took risks. The Government must now turn onto itself the spotlight that Eiland directed at the Israel Defense Forces. If Netanyahu and Barak avoid doing this, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee must set up a panel to investigate.

III. Drowning in Investigations

Senior columnist Nahum Barnea wrote on page one of Yediot Aharonot (7/13): The difference between the investigation of the flotilla affair and other investigations is that in this case there is no public pressure to investigate, and there is no public hunger for punishment to be doled out. An incident that began with a problem in Israeli public relations in the world was sucked inward, into the military establishment. There it has been inflated and now it is kicking and rocking the entire boat. And that is the connection between the ship that was and the ship that is yet to be. The cloud of the investigation is following the soldiers on their way to fulfilling their mission and will be waiting for them when they return home to port. That damage comes on top of other damage. There is one thing that is clear in the flotilla affair: the takeover of the Turkish ship caused far more damage than allowing it to sail to Gaza would have.

IV. What's the Fuss about?

Diplomatic correspondent and television anchor Ben Caspit wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (7/13): Israel's problem is not the killing of nine Turkish rioters, but the fact that this incident led to lifting the blockade on Gaza. This is an impossible catch: if the blockade on Gaza was appropriate, legal and necessary,

why did we lift it? If we were right in the operation against the Mavi Marmara, then why are we apologizing and holding investigations about it? And if now, suddenly, with great rapidity, we simply canceled the civilian blockade on Gaza (and nothing happened), then why did we need it? It is not the IDF that needs to provide these answers. The diplomatic echelon owes them to itself, and to us. The Naval Commandos are not to blame for what happened on the Mavi Marmara and for what happened afterwards, but rather those who sent them to an operation whose chances of success were lower than the potential of trouble. Why does it always turn out that we were already thinking of lifting the blockade/siege for a long time, but by the time we remembered it was already too late? Why do we always have to act under pressure, only after a blow to the head, only when there truly is no other choice? As said, these answers should be demanded of the decision-making echelon, not the executive ranks. But with us, everything is the wrong way around. The IDF committee has already finished its work, the Government's committee has barely begun. The IDF's committee worked quickly and issued its findings with transparency, the government's committee is still deliberating and pondering.

V. Half the Truth That Fits to Print: Foreign Money and Israeli Politics

Professor Gerald Steinberg, the President of NGO Monitor and a member of the Political Science Department at Bar-Ilan University wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (7/11): The exposure of tax-exempt funding for right-wing organizations (tax-exempt funds aid settlements in West Bank, The New York Times, July 6) is not surprising. But the authors missed or erased half the story. Based on NGO Monitor's extensive research, the scale of tax-exempt funding from the U.S. for the other side of the spectrum probably exceeds the \$20 million average annually reportedly provided to support the settlement agenda. And, as in the case of groups targeted in the Times, radical Left grantees push objectives that are also in direct opposition to U.S. government policies.... Rather than more partisan reports targeting the pro-settlement side of the NGO battlefield, a wider analysis and debate on the unique influence of externally funded NGOs in Israel is long overdue. This question needs to be addressed by all sides in the framework of Israel's democratic process. Knesset legislation that fills in the missing gaps in transparency, particularly for secret European funding processes for political NGOs, would be an important first step.

VI. The Unstated Alternative

Columnist Assaf Golan wrote in the editorial of the nationalist, Orthodox Makor Rishon-Hatzofe (7/13): The worst thing [when facing Gaza] is the Israeli diplomatic echelon's turning a blind eye to this hot potato despite its hefty price. Someone in Jerusalem apparently fears a confrontation with Egypt if the latter is presented with the responsibility for the Strip. However, this is the situation; Israel currently possesses no diplomatic means to disengage from Gaza -- otherwise it should consider taking back full responsibility for it. Anyway Israel's accountability already

is in the balance.

GOLDBERGER

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STATE FOR SCA/CEN, DRL/IRF FOR ELIJAH LOGSDON

E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, KIRF, KZ, KPAO, OPRC
SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: REPORTING REQUEST FOR GAZA FLOTILLA-RELATED
ANTI-SEMITISM

REFTEL: SECSTATE 72296

1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.
2. (SBU) SUMMARY: In response to refel request, Post reports no signs of anti-Semitism in statements by Kazakhstani political officials or the media in response to the May 31 Gaza flotilla incident. Post also finds no evidence of anti-Semitic trends developing in Kazakhstan. END SUMMARY.

OFFICIAL REACTION

3. (SBU) The Kazakhstani political leadership has treated this

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

issue with caution, and Post found no reports of anti-Semitic material in government statements. On May 31, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) published an official statement to offer condolences for families of the dead or wounded. "Saddened" by the incident, the Kazakhstani government appealed for the distribution of international humanitarian aid to Gaza sector residents and called for an immediate, comprehensive investigation of the tragic incident. The Kazakhstani government advised all interested parties to "exercise thoughtfulness" and avoid further escalation.

4. (SBU) At the third summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), a group initiated by Kazakhstan in which both Turkey and Israel are members, Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev stated that effective application of CICA instruments will reduce the possibility of "events similar to the recent Mediterranean incident." He called for the two countries to engage in "constructive dialogue."

TYPICAL MEDIA REACTION

5. (SBU) The Kazakhstani press widely covered the incident. Despite occasional instances of anti-Israeli commentary, no coverage crossed the line into anti-Semitism. Most commentary did not take sides on the incident, and many outlets focused their analysis on the international reaction. In daily newspaper "Liter," political observer Edward Poletayev praised the Kazakhstani government for maintaining strong relations with both Turkey and Israel, and concluded that "only the United States could broker this conflict." In the weekly "Novoe Pokolenie," Botagoz Seydakhmetova mildly rebuked the United States for its unwavering support of Israel, and mentioned the pro-Israeli lobby.

ANTI-ISRAELI CRITICISM

6. (SBU) Media outlets published some articles critical of Israeli policies, but did not use anti-Semitic rhetoric. Zona.kz published an article in which an anonymous author ranted, "We appeal to all sensible people to resume their economic and political boycott against Israel, which has carried out state terror, not to buy their products, and in every way to protest against the vile tyranny of modern fascists." Following the Kazakhstani government's May 31 statement, an editorial criticized Nazarbayev as "a traitor of the Muslim world," and called the official statement "a spit on the Islamic world." Some Kazakh-language press outlets criticized the event, using phrases like "malicious" or "brute action," but rhetoric did not devolve to anti-Semitism.

7. (SBU) COMMENT: Despite long-standing linguistic and cultural connections with Turkey, and the fact that Islam is the dominant religion in Kazakhstan, anti-Semitic attitudes following the flotilla incident have not grown. Kazakhstan's small Jewish population generally reports high levels of societal acceptance. END COMMENT.

HOAGLAND

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E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (08/13): Dailies continue to
focus on Quartet statement as basis for talks

Main Stories

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

Dailies report that the Quartet is formulating a joint statement to serve as the basis for launching direct talks. Headlines claim that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has refused a Palestinian proposal presented to him by S/E Mitchell. Independent Al-Ayyam leads with a headline quoting U.S. Department of State Acting Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner saying that "We trust we will succeed despite some issues of difference." Reports quote EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton saying that "Abbas is very close to agreeing to direct talks" and that he is expected to give an answer either Sunday or the middle of next week.

Independent daily Al-Quds leads with coverage of Saif Al-Islam Qadafi's talks with Israel regarding the release of Palestinian prisoners. Dailies report that, according to Qadafi, Israeli citizen Haddad (accused of spying for Israel in Libya) has been released as part of an exchange agreement with Israel. Reports quote Qadafi saying that Haddad was not an Israeli spy but that they "had to take advantage of the situation." Al Quds lead headline reports that the Gadaffi International Charity and Development Foundation signed a number of agreements with UNRWA to fund projects in the Palestinian Territories. (Note: According to the Foundation's website, through the agreement the Foundation will support reconstruction projects in Gaza. End note.) Al Quds main front page photo shows Al-Islam Qadafi shaking hands with Filippo Grandi, Commissioner General of UNRWA, following the agreement signing ceremony in Libya.

Dailies report on President Abbas's meetings with Egyptian President Mubarak and King Abdullah of Jordan. Headlines note that those meetings and Abbas's visit to Qatar are part of an effort to unite the Arab position on negotiations.

Al Ayyam and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida report and run front page photos from the funeral of "Martyr Al-Aroui" whose remains were recently returned to his family by Israeli authorities after being held by Israel for 34 years.

Dailies report that Israeli authorities claim that the hundreds of Muslims graves that Israel bulldozed in the Mamilla cemetery recently were "false graves" and did not contain any Muslim remains.

Israeli officials allege that the graves/tombstones that were bulldozed were put in place earlier this year in an attempt to illegally claim public land. Dailies also report that the Moroccan "Beit Mal Al-Quds" Fund is planning to invest 30 million dollars in East Jerusalem in 2011.

Block Quote:

Sameeh Shbib opined in Al-Ayyam under the title "Negotiations and the Quartet Statement" saying, "There is still hope among Palestinians that the PA will maintain its solid position against pressure to enter into talks without terms of reference. We can say that it is impossible to launch direct talks without setting references for negotiations. In theory, since the Palestinians

launched their 'peace attack' in 1988, they have not opposed negotiations. On the contrary, they have been the most honest. Now, determined on peace and negotiations, they call for a setting of terms of reference for the talks - to make negotiations succeed

and continue and not to stop."

Palestine Cyberspace:

Laila Al-Haddad blogs on her site Gaza Mom in an entry entitled "Gaza Goes Organic" saying, "While out doing field research for The Gaza Kitchen yesterday, Maggie and I stumbled upon what we think is Gaza's only "certified organic" farm. Now before you roll your eyes, keep in mind this is not a departure but a return to very traditional farming practices of pre-1948 days, when life and livelihoods were violently and abruptly disrupted. With the "Nakba," industrialization, modernization, and occupation changed all of this. Land for pasture became limited or was stolen; semi-nomadic lifestyles reduced; then came new kinds of insects and bugs, followed by the uncontrolled use of pesticides and with unpredictable access to borders for exporting their goods, many farmers began to adopt an all of nothing risk differential, trying to increase output on whatever land they had and sell as much as they could as quickly as they could, to hell with the pesticides and long-term impact on the people and the land."

The blog goes on to interview Abu Yasir a co-founder of the "Safe Agricultural Producers." According to Abu Yasir, who studied organic agricultural engineering in Santa Cruz, California, his pilot organic farm in Gaza, which produces its own compost and has a rain catchment, "is the wave of the future, and more productive and sustainable in the long-term."

Sari Harb from Ramallah blogs on Ramallah-based Real Times in Palestine saying, "Our economy contributes around 300 million dollars to settlements through our purchases of their products. Settlements continue to grow and continue to steal land and water. Boycotting is an essential and effective method of resistance in which all of us should participate. Boycotting settlement products is now enforced by law. Let's enforce boycotting Israel, in general, and in principle."

Cartoons of the week:

Below is a cartoon that appeared in independent daily Al-Quds on August 11, 2010. The cartoon depicts the recent hearings held by the Israeli-appointed international flotilla probe committee featuring the testimony of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and

Minister of Defense Barack. In the scene, both Barack and Netanyahu are pointing at each other saying "He's responsible!"

RUBINSTEIN

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E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, PGOV, PREL, UK
SUBJECT: LONDON MEDIA REACTION REPORT, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2010

London Media Reaction Report, Wednesday, August 4, 2010

I) Major Press Stories

A. Iraq

B. Pakistan

C. Afghanistan

D. Israel

E. Oil Spill

F. Banking

II) Texts

A. Iraq

1. "Mission unfinished: President Obama is right to claim that Iraq

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

has made huge progress. But violence is frequent, there is a political deadlock and the US presence is still needed" - an editorial in the conservative "Times" (08/04)

..."...It is understandable that he should want to trumpet this turning point. Progress in the Afghan conflict is grim, and the US exit from that war murky. It seems likely that the Democrats will suffer big losses in the November congressional elections. But in Iraq, he can claim that he has kept to the deadline agreed with Baghdad....

"Some of the high hopes that accompanied the invasion hold good. Iraq is a democracy, a rarity in the Arab world. But it is a fragile one. President Obama, addressing a critical home audience came too close to implying that when the combat troops come home, the attention of the US will dwindle. He has kept his commitment to Americans. But the US should show a lasting commitment to Iraq, to preserve the transformation - an astonishing one - that it has helped to achieve."

B. Pakistan

1. "Let's hope for more plain speaking" - an editorial in the left-of-center "Independent" (08/04)

..."We await to see how Mr. Zardari and Mr. Cameron handle their encounter. The Prime Minister, rightly, stands by his comments on Pakistan, while Pakistani officials have warned that the President envisages some plain speaking of his own, and will put Mr. Cameron 'straight' on the situation in the region, on terrorism and much else. It must be hoped that frank talking on both sides will clear the air; at best, it could usher in a more productive relationship - not just on terrorism, but on Afghanistan, on nuclear issues and on Pakistan's British diaspora - in a region and at a juncture where a great deal is at stake. Perhaps the timing of Mr. Zardari's visit is not so infelicitous after all."

2. "A washed-out state" - an editorial in the left-of-center "Guardian" (08/04)

..."...The reason religious charities with suspected ties to militants are there in such strength is because they provide relief that the state cannot or will not provide. While the North West Frontier Province and the federal government attack each other, these charities get on with the business in hand. The truth is that Islamabad has not just run out of the means to distribute aid; it has run out of cash as well. And its impotence is exposed every time a disaster like this strikes.

"That leaves the government with only one option - to rely on the army as the principal rescuer and supplier of relief. The threat from heavy rains is not over. Flooding could still spread down river into Sindh province. It is critical that international aid - and particularly US money - flows into the country at a time when it is needed most. Otherwise it is one step forward and three steps back."

C. Afghanistan

1. "Not another morality tale: Time magazine's cover is the latest cynical attempt to oversimplify the reality of Afghan lives" - a commentary by lecturer Priyamvada Gopal in the left-of-center "Guardian" (08/04)

..."Feminists have long argued that invoking the condition of women to justify occupation is a cynical ploy, and the 'Time' cover already stands accused of it. Interestingly, the WikiLeaks documents reveal CIA advice to use the plight of Afghan women as 'pressure points', an emotive way to rally flagging public support for the war.

"Misogynist violence is unacceptable, but we must also be concerned by the continued insistence that the complexities of war, occupation and reality itself can be reduced to bedtime stories. Time is not alone in condensing Afghan reality into simplistic morality tales. A deplorable number of recent works habituate us to thinking about Afghanistan as what Liam Fox, Britain's defence secretary, called a 'broken 13th-century country', defined solely by pathologically violent men and silently brutalised women....

"The mutilated Afghan woman ultimately fills a symbolic void where there should be ideas for real change. The truth is that the US and allied regimes do not have anything substantial to offer Afghanistan beyond feeding the gargantuan war machine they have unleashed.

"And how could they? In the affluent west itself, modernity is now about dismantling welfare systems, increasing inequality (disproportionately disenfranchising women in the process), and subsidising corporate profits. Other ideas once associated with modernity - social justice, economic fairness, peace, all of which would enfranchise Afghan women - have been relegated to the past in the name of progress. This bankrupt version of modernity has little to offer Afghans other than bikini waxes and Oprah-imitators. A radical people's modernity is called for - and not only for the embattled denizens of Afghanistan."

D. Israel

1. "Israel co-operates at last" - an editorial in the conservative "Daily Telegraph" (08/04)

"Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, may have had his arm twisted in several different directions, but he should still be applauded for making the right decision in agreeing to co-operate with the United Nations' inquiry into the deaths that occurred when his troops boarded a flotilla seeking to break the blockade around Gaza....

"On one level, the decision gives Israel the chance to present the facts of the case as it sees them. The prevailing view is that, regardless of the provocation, this was a botched operation that

cost the lives of nine people. If there is more to it, then Israel's co-operation should allow a clearer picture to emerge. More importantly, however, the process gives Israel the chance to take a step back from its isolated position. This will not only provide cover for those moderate Palestinians who wish to resume direct peace talks, but allow Israel - albeit via an unprecedented external intrusion into its affairs - to enhance its international legitimacy in the face of those who seek to undermine not just its friendships, but its very existence."

E. Oil Spill

1. "Saved by hot sun and oil-guzzling microbes" - a commentary by energy and environment editor Robin Pagnamenta in the conservative "Times" (08/04)

"It has become the biggest accidental oil spill leak in history, but the long-term impact of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, which has disgorged 5 million barrels of crude into the Gulf of Mexico, may turn out to be relatively modest.

"As of yesterday, 3,271 dead birds had been collected - a large number but a fraction of the estimated 250,000 retrieved after the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska, which was far smaller in size. The depth of the Macondo well, one mile below sea level, as well as its distance offshore - about 50 miles - reduced the damage to sensitive shallows and coastal areas by dispersing the oil across great swathes of open ocean....

"The type of oil involved has also helped. The heavy, viscous crude from the Exxon Valdez can still be found beneath rocks along the Alaskan coast. In contrast, BP's light, sweet crude has evaporated relatively quickly from the warm waters and beneath the Gulf's summer skies.

"Unlike in Alaska, the warm seas are also rich in the microbes that are able to eat oil, helping to break up the slick."

2. "If CO2 looked like oil, we would act now: We rage against the leak, but ignore the invisible pollution from our fossil-fuel addiction" - a commentary by Bryan Lovell, Senior Research Fellow in Earth Sciences at Cambridge University, in the conservative "Times" (08/04)

..."The fossil carbon spilt in the form of oil from Deepwater Horizon has been obvious to those nearby, and to the world at large. The invisible and odourless fossil carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere by mankind is not at all obvious. In the atmosphere, it is measured in traces: if it smelt, it would catch the attention of a springer spaniel but might still not alert a human being. Yet the effects are significant: the dog barks and we need to act now. The response to Deepwater Horizon needs to be seen in this context....

"Once most of us are convinced by the message from the past that we really do have a problem in the future we will find an unlikely

potential ally. The oil industry can pump carbon dioxide released by coal-fired power stations into safe underground storage using routine technology. This storage will be opposed by some on the grounds that it prolongs the life of the villainous fossil-fuel industries. Yet it is inevitable that coal will continue to supply much of the world's demand for electricity for years. The oil industry should prepare to act on the heroic scale required to make a dent in the problem of carbon release.

"Deepwater Horizon reminds us that terrible accidents may take the lives of the skilled workers who probe rocks to find the fossil carbon that has fuelled so much of our material prosperity over the past century. What is written in those same rocks tells us, with increasing urgency, that we cannot simply burn that carbon with impunity."

F. Banking

1. "Our anger with banks is boosting their profits: They've got us in a chokehold: we demand more lending and less risky behaviour. How to fix this paradox?" - a commentary by associate editor Anatole Kaletsky in the conservative "Times" (08/04)

..."...While bankers are cashing in outrageously, the primary responsibility for this perversion of justice lies not with the bankers, but with populist politicians who have been most vociferous in demanding punishment for the banks....

"First and foremost, governments must accept their responsibility for macro-economic management and keep stimulating their economies until they return to full-employment.

"Second, governments and voters must realise that banks will always, in the final analysis, be able to depend on government support. It is an illusion to suggest that they can be made safe to fail by cutting them down to size or by restricting their speculative activities. Instead banks must be forced to pay in advance, through special taxes or insurance levies, for this implicit support.

"Finally, governments must enforce lending targets on banks that have benefited from a public rescue, especially where the government has majority control....

"The goals of private profitability and national prosperity normally coincide, but sometimes they diverge sharply. Today we are living in such a time - just ask the bankers."
LEBARON

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E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, TU, PREL, KPAO
SUBJECT: Turkish Media Reaction - US Replies to Erdogan, Israel -
December 9, 2010

1. Media Highlights: Iran Talks in Turkey; US Replies to Erdogan on
WikiLeaks and Commentary; Turkey-Israel Close to Deal; PKK Ocalan
Olive Branch to Gulen; AK Party to Attend KDP Congress in Northern
Iraq; Student Protests: "Democracy with Eggs";

How the US is Playing/Related News

2. Iran Nuclear and Turkey: Crowley: "Iran-P5+1 Talks will Mark a
Serious Start" (Sabah)

Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency (AA) and mainstream
Sabah report the US Department of State said on Wednesday that
Turkey's trade with Iran did not contradict efforts of the US to
isolate Iran. Philip Crowley, the US assistant secretary of state,
told a daily press briefing that Turkey's efforts to increase its
trade with Iran were not in contradiction with the U.S. efforts to
isolate Iran. Crowley also said he hoped the talks to be held
between Iran and P5+1 in Istanbul at the end of January would mark

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

the "beginning of a serious process."

Wikileaks Coverage and Commentary

3. US Replies to Erdogan (Radikal); Crowley: "Our Diplomats are Sincere and Honest" (Cumhuriyet)

Radikal and Cumhuriyet report Philip Crowley, US State Department Spokesman, has responded to PM Erdogan who had defined Wikileaks documents as "unserious correspondence including rumor, magazine gossip, allegations, and slander by US diplomats." Crowley said that the US diplomats were "sincere and honest," adding, "What you see in the full context of these documents is United States diplomats fully engaged around the world. And that is not going to change."

4. Wikileaks Commentary: Pro-government Sabah columnist Mehmet Barlas asks "Are all US diplomats of the same quality?" and opines "It's normal for the US State Department Spokesman to defend the department's diplomats. When professional solidarity is in play, you assume all professionals have the same quality and qualifications. As historian Toynbee said "You could find 50 different types of anything in a country as huge as the US," Wikileaks documents revealed that not all US diplomats are of the same quality. Being the center of pragmatism, it's impossible for the US not to evaluate this as a test for its diplomats." Mainstream Milliyet's Kadri Gursel opines in "Wikileaks Should Disturb Iran the Most:" "Iran's nuclear program is the biggest and most effective global security issue in the world according to Wikileaks' published documents. It's because all the world has learned of Arabic leaders' 'request' to US officials for a military operation against Iran. Arab countries were hesitant to pronounce that the solution was a war but Wikileaks has now revealed all. Meanwhile, Arabic countries' support for Israel on the Iran issue can't be denied. We saw daydreamer Davutoglu's diplomacy of giving support to Iran at all times has distanced Turkey from Sunni states in the Middle East. In the end, Wikileaks has increased pressure on Iran."

In the Headlines

5. Turkey-Israel Close to Deal (Milliyet): Mainstream Milliyet reports Israeli Ambassador to Turkey Gaby Levy has rejected press reports that Israel agreed to apologize and pay damages for the

raid, while reporting on Israeli press reaction to the meetings in Geneva. In "Turkey-Israel Close to Deal," Milliyet reports that Israeli papers have reported that that in Geneva, Turkish and Israeli officials have agreed on a formula for repairing strains in bilateral relations, and that the prime ministers of Turkey and Israel would decide about the future of the process. Israel reportedly has agreed to apologize for the Gaza flotilla raid and pay damages to the victims of the families, and in exchange, asked Turkey to acknowledge that the Israeli raid had no malicious intent, and demanded guarantees that Israeli soldiers would not be

taken to court for the raid. In "Ankara Demands Clear, Transparent Apology," mainstream, pro-government Sabah says Turkey and Israel have recorded progress in the talks, but failed to strike a deal, noting Israel was concerned that other countries represented in the Gaza flotilla could also take advantage of the deal.

Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet gives prominent play in "Shalom: It's Actually Turkey That Should Apologize" to Israeli Deputy Premier Silvan Shalom's comment in the Israeli press that Israel's apologizing to Turkey was unthinkable regarding Mavi Marmara raid. Also, Cumhuriyet notes that Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's assistant said "an apology from Israel is out of question according to Lieberman's view. It is actually Turkey which should apologize. Turkey should pay compensation as it offered help to terrorists."

6. Commentary Turkey-Israel: In "Axis Shift in Israel," Okan Muderrisoglu at pro-government Sabah writes: "Turkey-Israel relations' period of tough days points to an axis shift in Israel. Israel once more discovers Turkey's rising value and role in the region. But it feels hard pressed to accept specific conditions like Turkey's demand for an official apology. Turkey's upcoming elections and political parties' attitude remains a fear for Tel Aviv too."

7. PKK Developments: Olive Branch from Ocalan to Gulen (Vatan): Leftist-nationalist Cumhuriyet in "Ocalan Blinks to Gulen Congregation" reports that lawyers representing jailed PKK leader Ocalan met with state officials and with Huseyin Gulerce, a renowned representative of Fethullah Gulen congregation. The meeting was held to discuss the unilateral truce declared by PKK and the steps for working out democratic settlement in the Kurdish issue, says Cumhuriyet. In "Ocalan: Kurds Should Not Migrate to the West Anymore," liberal Radikal reports PKK leader Ocalan extended the truce timetable from March to June. He asked Kurds not to migrate to the West. In "Olive Branch from Ocalan to Gulen," mainstream Vatan's Rusen Cakir says that Ocalan is extending an olive branch to Fethullah Gulen. He notes: "This is a political decision" and wonders whether the Islamic leader will accept Ocalan's good will gesture.

8. Kurds: AK Party to Attend KDP Congress in Northern Iraq (Sabah): Mainstream, pro-government Sabah reports Turkey's ruling AK Party will participate in the 13th congress of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to be held in Erbil in northern Iraq over the weekend. PM Erdogan has accepted an invitation by Massoud Barzani, and will send deputy party chairmen Abdulkadir Aksu and Omer Celik. Opposition CHP and Kurdish BDP will also send lawmakers to the congress, according to Sabah.

9. Student Protests: The Egg Shield (Milliyet, Hurriyet) Democracy with Eggs (Radikal): All media, especially TV, carry reports that Suheyl Batur of CHP and Burhan Kuzu of AKP, who attended a panel discussion at Ankara University's Political Sciences Faculty, were hit by eggs thrown by student protestors. Students prevented Batur from speaking.

US Embassy Ankara - Turkey Media Reaction - December 9, 2010 as
prepared by the Public Affairs Information Office

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.
SILLIMAN

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E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (01/27): "Palestine Papers"
Continue to Dominate Coverage; Suspects in the Killing of an American
Tourist Arrested

Summary: Palestinian media outlets continue to report on reactions
to the release of the "Palestine Papers" by Al Jazeera (See
SEPTTEL). Outlets also provide extensive reporting on the "fierce
clashes" between protesters and security forces in Egypt. Coverage
also notes that Israeli authorities arrested members of a
"Palestinian cell" suspected of killing an American tourist in
December 2010. End Summary.

Main Stories:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

Palestinian Authority (PA) official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida leads with reports that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee condemned the Al-Jazeera "campaign" that aims at "tarnishing" the Palestinian leadership (See SEPTTEL).

Palestinian media outlets carry extensive coverage of the protests in Egypt. Independent daily Al-Quds reports that there were "fierce clashes" between protesters and Egyptian government security forces, which reportedly resulted in the deaths of four civilians and two policemen, with dozens more injured. In related news, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports that in a telephone call with Egyptian President Mubarak, King Al Khalifah of Bahrain proposed a meeting of the Arab states to discuss the "future of the region" in light of continued protests.

Independent daily Al-Ayyam reports that White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs responded to a question yesterday (01/26), whether the U.S. still supports Egyptian President Mubarak, by stating, "Egypt is still an important and a strong ally." The headline reads, "White House Does Not Respond to Question Asking if Washington Still Supports Mubarak?" Coverage also reports on a White House statement calling on the Egyptian government to "listen to the people's aspirations" and respect democratic rights.

Al-Ayyam carries a front page report that Israeli authorities arrested members of a "Palestinian cell" accused of conducting "armed attacks against Israeli targets." According to coverage, four members of the cell are suspected of killing an American tourist in Jerusalem five weeks ago.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports that the European Union (EU) pledged to provide financial support to the PA worth 300 million Euros in 2011.

Block Quote:

Palestinian lawyer Ibrahim Sha'ban, writing in Al-Quds under the title "Flotilla is Blamed for Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Gaza Strip," opines, "The Turkel fact-finding commission that was assigned to look into the attacks against the Flotilla is biased, not independent and not objective. Certainly Israel will be very happy with it because the commission fulfilled the objectives assigned to it."

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E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/24): Questions as to Whether
Israeli and Palestinian Positions on Negotiations Are Shifting; Fatah
Accuses Hamas of "Sabotaging" Reconciliation

Summary: Palestinian media outlets report on today's Quartet
meeting in Brussels. Dailies carry conflicting reports of Israeli
and Palestinian positions on resumption of negotiations.
Accusations between Hamas and Fatah regarding the name of the next
prime minister for the new, interim Palestinian Authority (PA)
government continue to dominate coverage. End Summary.

Main Stories:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida leads with news that the Quartet will meet today (06/24) in Brussels to discuss possible mechanisms for reviving the peace process.

Front-page stories in independent daily Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida cite Israeli sources, who speculate that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is showing a readiness to pursue talks with Palestinians on the basis of the 1967 lines, with preconditions. According to coverage, these preconditions include recognition of Israel as a Jewish state and a solution of the refugees issue within the Palestinian territories and not in Israel. The sources also claim that Netanyahu presented this position to Dennis Ross, Special Assistant to the President, and Acting S/E Hale at their last meeting. Independent daily Al-Ayyam, however, carries a report stating that Netanyahu's office has denied these claims.

Al-Ayyam highlights statements by Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee member Saeb Erekat denying a report, attributed to an unnamed Palestinian official, that the Palestinian leadership is willing to ease its demand for a full cessation of settlement construction activities in order to resume talks. Erekat reiterated that the Palestinian position remains unchanged, and that it includes the 1967 lines and a full cessation of settlement construction activities as the basis of any future talks.

Dailies report that PA President Abbas met with Turkish President Gul yesterday (06/23) in Ankara. Reports note that both presidents discussed the Palestinians' attempt to seek UN recognition of a Palestinian state.

Citing wire services, Al-Ayyam reports that Israeli Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor called on the international community to do everything in its ability to prevent the upcoming Gaza aid flotilla. Coverage notes that Prosor stated Israel is determined to prevent the flotilla from reaching Gaza, and stressed Israel's right to defend itself.

Al-Quds reports that Fatah spokesperson Ahmad Assaf accused Hamas of sabotaging the reconciliation process by insisting on the nomination of Jamal Khudari, who is from the Gaza Strip, to head the new, interim PA government.

Media outlets report that Prime Minister Netanyahu intends to impose stricter detention conditions on Palestinian detainees and prisoners.

Al-Quds leads with President Obama's speech on moving forward in Afghanistan and the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The report carries most of the President's speech and also reports on reactions from Senator McCain and Senator Levin. There was no additional local commentary. Note: Post provided media outlets with copies of the President's speech in English and in Arabic, as translated by IIP.
End Note

Block Quotes:

Palestinians Want Negotiations to be Productive

An Al-Quds editorial notes, Our question to the international community is, if Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have reached a dead-end because of Netanyahu's stubbornness to pursue with settlement activities, what is the alternative for the Palestinians? Should they keep watching their land be stolen while everyone is asking them to go back to negotiations? Is it negotiations for the sake of negotiating, until there is no land left to negotiate over? The writer concludes, If Israel accepted the 1967 lines as its borders, then all the problems, including the settlements issue, would end, and the Palestinians could then go back to negotiations with confidence, and would not need to go to the UN or other international and regional bodies to seek their rights.

Reproducing the Crisis

Veteran analyst Samih Shbeib, writing in Al-Ayyam, opines, The formation of the interim government is facing difficulties, and this is considered to be the easiest step in implementing reconciliation on the ground. This should give us an idea of how hard it is to agree on other things if we cannot agree on this simple item... the formation of the government needs a serious understanding of the role it will play in solving the Palestinian crisis, and not a way to reproduce it.

 Hamas Media:

Abbas:

<<http://www.felesteen.ps/details/21541/>-----
-.htm> One Eye on Reconciliation and One Eye on
Negotiations

Palestinian Islamic Scholar Jamal Abu Reideh, writing in the electronic edition of the Hamas official daily Felesteen, opines, This means that the hope Palestinians held for the past period is now over. Reconciliation is becoming the unattained desire for every Palestinian. We can now say that President Abbas is the biggest winner of the reconciliation agreement and that Hamas did not achieve anything from this agreement, except getting the blame for being the party that stood against reconciliation.

Palestinian Cyberspace:

The Young Arab and Palestinian Generations, the Coming Change and
Israel's Plans
<<http://www.middleeastpost.com/2995/young-arab-palestinian-generations-coming-change-israels-plans/>>

Middle East Post Founder Ziad Abu Zayyad, posting on the Middle East Post website, concludes, The young Palestinian generations are building what is called a Peoples Movement, that is built on non-violent actions like demonstrations, civil disobedience, and many other methods used throughout history, and that succeeded in getting those who used them their rights. The peoples will and belief can never be broken, and this is what the current Israeli leadership will have to face... The Arab world today is awakened from a long period that is similar to the Dark Ages of Europe, the young generations have made their decision, and they see nothing except for making a change in every part of their lives.

Cartoon of the Week:

<http://www.alquds.com/pdfs/pdf-docs/2011/6/13/page18.pdf>

This cartoon appeared in Al-Quds on June 13. It depicts Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on the beach, facing a huge wave with the phrase, Refereeing September 2011.
RUBINSTEIN

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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/28): Knesset Member Mofaz:

"Recognizing a Palestinian State may Result in War"; Hamas Denies

Reconciliation Talks Planned with President Abbas

Summary: Palestinian media report on an AFP interview with the Chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee regarding Palestinian attempts to seek UN recognition. Local press report Hamas officials' denials that meetings are being arranged with Palestinian Authority (PA) President Abbas to discuss reconciliation. Media outlets also focus on developments related to the Gaza "anniversary" flotilla. End Summary.

Main Stories:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

Independent daily Al-Quds leads with an AFP interview with Shaul Mofaz, chairman of the Israeli Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. According to the coverage, Mofaz stated that the Palestinians' attempt to seek UN recognition of a Palestinian state will produce a new conflict with Israel and will "shake" the region. Reportedly Mofaz said that he will urge French officials not to support the Palestinian attempt. Al-Quds's lead headline quotes Mofaz stating that "recognizing a Palestinian state may result in war" and that "launching the peace process is important to Israel, given tensions and unrest in the region."

Al-Quds runs separate front-page coverage on statements by Gaza-based Hamas spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri, asserting that President Abbas's proposed visit to Gaza will take place after the formation of an interim PA government and not before. According to Abu Zuhri, "What is needed now is to implement the reconciliation agreement and not Abbas to visit Gaza."

According to the dailies, Hamas officials denied reports that a new meeting has been arranged to take place in Cairo between President Abbas and the head of Hamas's political bureau, Khaled Mish'al. Al-Quds quotes Mish'al's deputy, Musa Abu Marzouq, saying that the PA's insistence that Fayyad serve as the prime minister of the interim government is obstructing formation of the government.

Dailies report on a press statement issued by the Israeli security cabinet directing the Israeli navy to prevent the Gaza "anniversary" flotilla from reaching Gaza's shores. PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports that Israel endorsed a plan to stop the flotilla, which is expected to head from Greece toward Gaza on or around June 30-July 1. In related reporting, independent Maan News Agency <<http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=400463>> quotes Ann Wright, a retired U.S. Army colonel and former diplomat participating in the flotilla. Wright is quoted saying that the 22 "national delegations" participating in the flotilla seek "to challenge the policies of Israel and the United States."

Independent daily Al-Ayyam and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida report that Fatah Central Committee member Nabil Sha'ath said yesterday (06/27) that the Palestinians anticipate that an additional 24 countries will

recognize a Palestinian state before September.

Maan News Agency <<http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=400475>> , citing AFP, reports that Hamas prisoners in Israeli jails started a 24-hour hunger strike yesterday after seven of Hamas prisoners were put in solitary confinement. According to the coverage, Issa Qaraqe, PA Minister for Prisoner Affairs, is quoted saying, "[Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu wants to put pressure on the Hamas leadership over Shalit."

Block Quotes:

"Rewriting the National Reconciliation Agreement, Why?"

Veteran columnist Hani Masri, writing in Al-Ayyam, asserts that "After postponing President Abbas's interview with the Lebanon Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) and cancelling his meeting with Mish'al, it became obvious that the reconciliation agreement signed in Cairo is being redrafted. Why did this happen... is it because the PA has realized that even forming a government of technocrats headed by Fayyad will not overcome its risk of losing American and European aid? ...It is clear that Israel's and America's stubborn position towards reconciliation, as an obstacle to the resumption of talks, will lead to a severing of relations and curtailment of assistance. As a result, the agreement is being redrafted to comply with President Abbas's agenda and political program and to reduce the risks and repercussions on the PA."

"Abu Mazen in Gaza Soon"

Fatah official and former PA minister Sabri Saidam, writing in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, opines, "President Abbas's visit to Gaza, if it ever takes place, will establish a new era of healing Gaza's wounds and will give the go-ahead for starting reconstruction and the implementation of reconciliation agreement priorities, including preparation for upcoming elections."

 Hamas Media:

Yousef Rizqa, political advisor to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, writing on the online edition of the Hamas daily Felesteen in an article entitled, "Corrupt and Selective

<<http://www.felesteen.ps/details/21669/%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%81%D8%B3%D8%AF%D8%A9.htm>>," opines, "The national reconciliation entered the intensive care unit after suffering a stroke. Doctors tried to connect it to life support machines to keep it going, and then decided to wait until September. The September game is trying to make illusion into reality. They say in September we can convert water into butter! People don't believe in September and do not see butter in water. The big talk about September will not make illusion a reality."

 Palestinian Cyberspace:

Gaza-based Palestinian journalist Salah Abu Salah, writing on his blog under the title, "The Palestinian People Cannot Take Another Shock <<http://salah11.maktoobblog.com/>>," opines, "Our leaders in Palestinian factions, especially Fatah and Hamas, should make the public interest a priority. They should also make compromises for the sake of the Palestinian people who made them leaders... Factions should not hide behind one name to lead the next government."
RUBINSTEIN

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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION: Alleged USG-EU Peace Plan; Abbas:

Negotiations remain Palestinians' first, second, and third choice;

Lieberman: Flotilla Organizers "Seeking Bloodshed"

Summary: Palestinian media outlets lead with news of a possible Quartet meeting in Washington in July. Dailies report on statements by Palestinian Authority (PA) President Abbas regarding negotiations with Israel. Reporting continues to focus on the Gaza anniversary flotilla and Israeli reactions. End Summary.

Main Stories:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Independent daily Al-Quds and PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, citing Israeli daily Haaretz, report on statements by Israeli and European sources speculating that the Quartet will hold a meeting in Washington on July 11 to present a peace plan based on President Obama's vision, in order to avert the Palestinian initiative to seek UN recognition. According to the coverage, the USG and the EU want to thwart the Palestinian effort. A headline in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reads, Quartet Discusses Next Month an American-European Peace Plan to Thwart the Palestinian Attempt to Declare a State.

Dailies report on President Abbas statements yesterday (06/28) from Baku. Abbas is quoted saying, Palestinians want independence, and negotiations remain their first, second, and third choice. Abbas reiterated that the Palestinian leadership will go to the UN, but if Israel agrees to the 1967 lines and to a cessation of settlement activities, then we will move immediately to negotiations.

Dailies report that Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman accused Gaza anniversary flotilla organizers of seeking bloodshed, and referred to some of them as terrorists. Lieberman recommended that aid from the flotilla be transmitted through Israel, Egypt, or the UN. According to the reports, American participants in the flotilla responded that their intentions are peaceful.

Al-Quds reports that Hamas political bureau member Mahmoud Az-Zahar (also spelled Al-Zahar) confirmed that Fatah-Hamas reconciliation efforts have reached a stalemate. In a separate front-page article the daily reports that Izzat Rishq, another member of the Hamas political bureau, denied reports that Hamas and Fatah had reached agreement on Muhammad Mustafa to serve as head of a new, interim PA government. According to the report, Rishq is quoted saying, no agreement on any names has been reached. (Note: Earlier media reports had speculated that Fatah had proposed Mustafa to serve as a deputy prime minister in Gaza, in order to win Hamas support for PA Prime Minister Fayyad's nomination to head the interim government. End Note.)

The independent Maan News Agency

<<http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=400783>> reports that Israeli authorities detained 11 Palestinians in the West Bank yesterday (06/28), including a Hamas-affiliated member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Nasser Abdel Jawwad, and a journalist, Nawwaf Al-Amir, program coordinator at Hamas-affiliated Al-Quds satellite TV station. According to the report, over the past eight months, Israeli security forces have detained 14 Hamas lawmakers, seven of which reportedly have been detained since the Hamas-Fatah reconciliation agreement was signed. Hamas lawmakers condemned the detentions, saying that the abduction of lawmakers is continuation of a plan to assassinate the Palestinian people.

Block Quotes:

Dont Be Pessimistic About Reconciliation

Regular columnist Adel Abed Rahman, writing in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, asserts, The Hamas leadership should create a positive atmosphere among Palestinians towards reconciliation and stop putting obstacles or making unnecessary assumptions about the future of the reconciliation. Hamas should give Abu Mazen the green light to form the government, enabling him to move forward to protect the rights of the Palestinian people.

No Way to the UN without Reconciliation

Regular columnist Hamdi Farraj, writing in Al-Quds, opines, As an observer, I think the PA will not go to the UN in September, given Abbas recent statements connecting going to the UN with the failure of negotiations... the more I think about it, I realize that Abbas only agreed to reconciliation with Hamas because he realized he cannot go to the UN without being united. Because of the impasse in reconciliation, Farraj sees no way at this point that the Palestinians can present a united front to the UN, thereby minimizing any chance of success of the declaration of a Palestinian state. As a result, Farraj believes, Abbas will choose not to go to the UN.

Hamas Media:

Netanyahu Is Lying
<<http://www.felesteen.ps/details/21703/- .htm>>

Yousef Rizqa, political advisor to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, writing for the online edition of the Hamas official daily Felesteen, asserts that ...The Palestinian public is accusing the PA, and specifically Abbas, of abandoning the Palestinian prisoners issue... We say to Abbas that 30 years of Palestinians in Israeli prisons is enough. If the five years that Gilad Shalit has spent in detention weighs so heavily on Israeli society, and Shalits family, the same applies to the families of Palestinian prisoners. The Palestinian people reject the PA policy which marginalizes Palestinian prisoners. The people see Hamass position as a hopeful solution. That is why the people are supporting Hamass position to reach a prisoners exchange deal.

Palestinian Cyberspace:

Palestinian blogger Muhammad Abu Allan, writing on his blog Bahrik Yafa (Jaffa - Your Sea) under the title, Justice Will Never Be Fostered Unless Israeli Occupation Leaders Are Prosecuted <<http://blog.amin.org/yafa1948/2011/06/28/%d9%84%d9%86-%d8%aa%d9%83%d8%aa%d9%85%d9%84-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b9%d8%af%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a9-%d9%82%d8%a8%d9%84-%d9%85%d8%ad%d8%a7%d9%83%d9%85%d8%a9-%d9%82%d8%a7%d8%af%d8%a9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a7%d8%ad%d8%aa/>> , opines, Are the crimes perpetrated by the U.S., UK, and their allies in Iraq less ugly than the crimes perpetrated by Libyan president Muammar Al Qadhafi? The war crimes perpetrated in Al Falluja alone is enough to bring former President Bush and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair to the International Court of Justice.
RUBINSTEIN

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E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (07/01): Abbas: "We want Israel to
respond to our recognition of its right to exist by recognizing the
independent Palestinian state along the 1967 lines"

Summary: Local outlets carry front-page news of Palestinian
Authority (PA) President Abbas's visit to the Netherlands and his
meetings with Dutch officials, plus developments surrounding
efforts to restart negotiations and the Gaza "anniversary"
flotilla. Largest-circulation, independent daily Al Quds leads
with reports that the USG is pursuing contacts with the Muslim
Brotherhood in Egypt. Commentators condemn attempts to block
Palestinian-led statehood initiatives and the detention of the
leader of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel.
End Summary.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

Main Stories:

Dailies report on President Abbas's visit to Amsterdam and his audience with Queen Beatrix. According to coverage, Abbas also met with and addressed members of the Dutch parliament. According to the coverage, Abbas told parliament members, "We want Israel to respond to our recognition of its right to exist by recognizing the independent Palestinian state along the 1967 lines." Abbas also reiterated the PA's commitment to the two-state solution and its position that negotiations are the means for achieving it.

PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, citing Israeli political sources, reports that joint Israeli-American teams continue working toward a formula for the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian talks. According to the coverage, chief Israeli negotiator Yitzhak Molcho arrived in Washington yesterday (06/30) and will be meeting with senior USG officials.

A report in independent daily Al-Ayyam asserts that efforts to renew peace talks are being "thwarted" by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's insistence on the Palestinians' recognition of Israel as a Jewish state. The article affirms Palestinian support for restarting negotiations based on the 1967 lines with agreed land swaps, as outlined in President Obama's May 19 speech.

Dailies report that Gaza "anniversary" flotilla participants are "strongly determined" to sail to the Gaza Strip, despite recent logistical obstacles. Al-Hayat Al-Jadida carries a front-page photo of activists on a U.S.-flagged ship appearing ready to set sail from Athens.

Al-Quds's lead headline reads, "America resumes its contacts with the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt." The article attributes to Secretary Clinton a statement that the USG is pursuing limited contact with the Muslim Brotherhood, and that such contact is not "a new policy," but rather one that has been taking place for the past five or six years.

Dailies report that yesterday (06/30) a group of Israeli settlers from the West Bank settlement of Yitzhar set fire to agricultural lands in the village of Burin, south of Nablus. Reports note that the settlers also blocked bypass roads leading to the village of Burin, and threw stones at passing cars.

Block Quotes:

"Palestinians Want Peace But Not At Any Price"

Today's (07/01) Al-Quds editorial states, "If negotiations with Israel have reached a dead end because of continued settlement activities and Netanyahu's refusal to recognize the 1967 lines as the borders of a Palestinian state, why wouldn't the world exert serious pressure on Israel to change its positions, and why would they [the world] block all other options for the Palestinians, including going to the UN? Palestinians definitely want peace, but not at any price. In order for world security and stability to be preserved, the international community that put the Palestinians in a very weak position on the political and military tracks should live up to its obligations."

"An American Autumn"

The Chief Editor of Al-Hayat Al-Jadida opines that "The [U.S.] Senate endorsed a resolution to halt aid to the PA if it insists on going to the UN in September... Why don't these senators remember that the U.S. achieved its independence from Britain through unilateral disengagement; and the only country that recognized its independence at that time was France... Now we have more than 150 countries ready to recognize us... If the senators want us to bow down to their threat to cut off aid, which is by the way, paying back a huge debt that the international community owes the Palestinians for their sufferings all these years under occupation, then they must know that we will not bow down."

Hamis Media:

Writer Ibrahim Shakameh, writing on the official Hamas website, Palestine Information Centre (PIC), in an article entitled, "Sheikh Raed Salah is Victorious
<<http://www.palestine-info.info/ar/default.aspx?xyz=U6Qq7k%2bcOd87MDI46m9rUxJEpMO%2bi1s7oUICE6A30eF8VWVG1iOb%2bvHbglhRd9Twqs787j80iCDmicwrGsx%2bjQLElrX7bReq%2bYZUkb3xER%2byHZSXMhMUfB2UpglfO3q3R7wd8weNxfU%3d>> " (referring to the leader of the northern branch of the

Islamic Movement in Israel, recently detained in the United Kingdom), opines, "Sheikh Raed has a message and a deep belief in the justice of that message. He announced that he will engage in a judicial battle with the British government, even if it results in him being put in jail. He wants to expose the false allegations about him raised by the UK... The Sheikh's voice will reach every house in Britain, even the whole world..." Shakameh concludes with a warning to the UK, "...you will reap the consequences of your foolishness."

Palestinian Cyberspace:

Palestinian blogger Muhammad Abu A'llan, writing on his blog Bahrik Yaffa (Jaffa - Your sea), under a posting entitled, "Freedom For Sheikh Raed Salah

<<http://blog.amin.org/yafa1948/2011/06/30/%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ad%d9%80%d9%80%d9%80%d9%80%d9%80%d9%80%d9%80%d9%80%d9%80%d8%b1%d9%8a%d8%a9-%d9%84%d8%b4%d9%8a%d8%ae-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a3%d9%82%d8%b5%d9%89-%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%a6%d8%af-%d8%b5%d9%84%d8%a7/>>," opines, "This British act which comes in response to the Zionist Lobby in London, and in response to the policies of the Occupation, is just one more addition to new British political crimes against the Palestinian people, starting from the British mandate to today."

Cartoon of the Week:

This cartoon appeared in Al-Quds on June 22. It shows a popsicle, which represents (intra-Palestinian) "reconciliation," melting because it has waited too long in the sun.

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E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (07/13): Quartet "Failure" to Issue
Statement and Congressional Testimonies on USG Assistance to
Palestinians Leads Local Coverage

Summary: Palestinian media outlets focus on the "failure" of the
Quartet to issue a statement following its meeting in Washington.
Reports highlight the Palestinian position on seeking UN
recognition of a state in the absence of a Quartet statement.
Dailies also carry front-page testimonies of USG officials before a
Congressional committee regarding USG assistance to the Palestinian
Authority (PA). End Summary.

Main Stories:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

Dailies lead with reports of the Quartet's "failure" to issue a statement following the meeting of ministers in Washington earlier this week. The lead headline in independent daily Al-Quds reads, "Quartet Fails to Agree on Statement or Call for Resumption of Talks." Another headline below the fold reads, "Washington Notes There Are Gaps that Impede Progress." Dailies report on comments by PA President Abbas that "the lack of a [Quartet] statement is a bad sign because it shows that there are differences between" Quartet members. PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports that Abbas reiterated that the PA will move forward to seek UN recognition of a Palestinian state along the 1967 lines.

Independent daily Al-Ayyam front-pages a report that the USG "cancelled" an upcoming visit to the region by acting S/E Hale, and that "Washington failed to convince the Quartet to adopt its vision for the requirements needed to resume talks." Coverage asserts that the USG wanted the statement to include Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state among the terms of reference, but the other three Quartet members rejected this language, because "it will complicate things" and "will not contribute to circumstances conducive to the resumption of talks."

Dailies report on a statement by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee, read by its Secretary General, Yaser Abed Rabbo, calling on the international community to support the Palestinian decision to seek UN recognition in September, and accusing Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu of "destroying the peace process."

Citing Israeli daily Maariv, Al-Quds reports that Prime Minister Netanyahu sent an Israeli proposal for resuming talks to the USG. According to coverage, sources speculate that Netanyahu agreed to the resumption of talks based on the 1967 lines, with agreed-on land swaps, if Palestinians agree "eventually" to recognize Israel as a Jewish state.

Dailies carry front-page reports of DAS Walles's testimony before a Congressional committee yesterday (07/12), stating that USG

assistance to the PA is necessary for the security of Palestinians and Israelis, and for stability in the Middle East. Citing Israeli daily Haaretz, Al-Quds notes that senior USG officials told the committee that continued USG support of the PA and the establishment of Palestinian institutions are vital to the security of both Palestinians and Israelis. A headline in Al-Quds reads, "U.S. Administration Committed to Financial Support to the PA despite Reconciliation Agreement."

Block Quotes:

"One More International Failure"

Today's (07/13) Al-Quds editorial states, "One more time the Quartet evades its responsibilities in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict... to force Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian land since 1967... if the Quartet calls on Palestinians to resume talks with Israel without forcing the latter to stop its settlement activities and its actions against Palestinians without forcing it [Israel] to end its occupation, this would represent a new failure to any efforts to achieve peace, and demonstrates a clear bias toward the Israeli occupation."

"The Quartet Meeting: Continued Powerlessness and Danger in the Region"

Regular columnist Ashraf Ajrami, writing in Al-Ayyam, opines, "The Quartet members, and in particular the United States, have a huge responsibility in laying the right kind of foundations for a peace process according to international resolutions on which previous Palestinian and Israeli negotiations were based... The U.S. needs to impose a general framework for a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, based on Obama's principles [May 19th speech] including the 1967 lines... Without this, the whole region will have a vague destiny that will negatively affect the interests of many parties."

Hamas Media:

"Battle to Announce a Palestinian State in the UN

<<http://www.palestine-info.info/ar/default.aspx?xyz=U6Qq7k%2bcOd87MDI46m9rUxJEpMO%2bi1s7SL%2bHTbcYOK2JbowF%2bqRoSPFeZXXc2ZJ2TLlvOuzdXH4DDNJ0dr8qK82bKUT%2ffj3ScFn7d%2b68kg0qIFMrN1q0PZY4PE%2be12WL Sdrdzj%2fkXQ%3d>> "

Writer Maso'ud Daher, writing for Emirati daily Al-Bayyan and published on the Hamas official website, Palestinian Information Center (PIC), opines, "It is clear the Zionist Lobby is putting pressure on the U.S. Administration to prohibit the recognition of a Palestinian state through a UN General Assembly resolution in September 2011. Israel, the U.S., and some European states are waging a vicious war against activists and solidarity campaigners. They stopped the second freedom flotilla from reaching Gaza... They also banned thousands of international activists from flying to Israel to voice solidarity with the Palestinian people. Will Arabs move to embrace the international solidarity movements that unveil to the world the ugly face of Israel as a Jewish, racist, and colonialist state?"

Palestinian Cyberspace:

Political Analyst Mahdi Abdul Hadi, writing on the Bitter Lemons website in an article entitled, "September Needs Israel's Awakening and not Politicians' Bluffs" (<http://www.bitterlemons.org/inside.php?id=113>), opines, "One thing is certain: Palestinians will not be the same after September. They will have to translate statehood recognition into real progress on the ground, such as travel [travel documents; citizenship] and economy [open borders and free trade], to name a few. The most important challenge, however, will be to block Israel from disrupting the new Palestine's sovereignty. Then, international protection will be the key to following words (embodied in the UN recognition) with action."
RUBINSTEIN

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E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (September 3-6): Settlers Set Fire
to West Bank Mosque; USG and Quartet Efforts "Intensify" Before
September Bid

Summary: Palestinian media outlets highlight news of Israeli
settlers setting fire to a mosque near Nablus yesterday. Reports
focus on the Palestinian Authority's (PA) condemnation of the
attack. News outlets report on a September 5 call between the
Secretary and PA President Mahmoud Abbas, as well as upcoming
September 7 meetings between Abbas and Special Envoy for Middle
East Peace David Hale, and Abbas and Quartet envoy Tony Blair.
Dailies report that the Belgian government seeks to upgrade the
Palestinian diplomatic representation in Belgium. End summary.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

SEPTEMBER 6

Main Stories

Palestinian media outlets highlight reports of a group of Israeli settlers setting fire to the Al-Nourein Mosque in Qusra, near Nablus, on September 5. Reports note that the settlers destroyed the mosque's property, chanted slogans against Islam, wrote insulting statements about the Prophet Mohammad, and drew the Star of David on the structure's walls. In addition, the settlers attacked Palestinian vehicles near Houwara, also near Nablus, and set fire to olive trees near the village of Burin.

Independent daily Al-Quds carries a front-page report quoting PA spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh condemning the recent escalation, and suggesting its aim is to jeopardize the Palestinians' attempt to seek United Nations (UN) recognition. Abu Rudeineh asserted that the burning of the mosque and continued construction activity, mainly in the Ramat Shlomo and Rakhas Shufat settlements, proves that Israel rejects peace. Independent daily Al-Ayyam quotes PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad as accusing the government of Israel of being fully responsible for the settlers' attack on the mosque.

The lead headline in Al-Ayyam reads, "Efforts Intensified Prior to September Entitlement," noting that PA President Mahmoud Abbas received a call yesterday, September 5, from the Secretary to discuss the latest developments in the region. Reports note that Abbas will receive Special Envoy for Middle East Peace David Hale and Quartet envoy Tony Blair in separate meetings tomorrow in Ramallah, in an effort to resume the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. In related news, Al-Quds quotes Fatah Central Committee member Nabil Shaath as stating that not one threat will stop the Palestinians from going to the UN and seeking the full membership of Palestine.

Dailies report that Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme stated during his visit to the region that his country seeks to upgrade the Palestinian mission in Belgium.

PA official daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida leads with news, citing Israeli daily Haaretz, that Turkey has expelled the entire Israeli diplomatic mission from Ankara.

Block Quotes:

Whats After September ...? October

Veteran columnist Hani Al-Masri, writing in Al-Ayyam, opines, Not

being ready for what will come after September reflects the lack of seriousness about going to the UN and weakens the chances of success for this diplomatic initiative ... we cant succeed in September if we are not ready for what comes after it, especially if we know beforehand that even with a UN resolution nothing will change the reality of the occupation on the ground ... this resolution will only add to the many resolutions that support the Palestinians, but without concrete actions on the ground.

The Turkish Model in Dealing with Israel

An Al-Quds editorial notes Turkey's position in dealing with Israel sets an example for how political behavior should be when it comes to Israel and the violations it undertakes. Turkey used to have strong diplomatic relations with Israel, is part of NATO, and enjoys good relations with the west in general, yet it was able to take a decisive decision to expel the Israeli ambassador ... At the same time, we do not see any similar Arab stance ... many Arab countries still have ambassadors in Israel, despite continued Israeli settlement activities ... We dont ask for war or violence against Israel but we want Arab states to make diplomatic moves to express objection and resentment of the Israeli practices.

Hamas Media

Disrespected Israelis
<<http://www.felesteen.ps/details/24022/---.htm>>

West Bank-based writer Issam Shawar, writing for the online edition of the Hamas official daily Felesteen, opines, Israeli tourists are getting questioned in airports, the Israeli Ambassador is getting dismissed, the Israeli flag was removed from the Embassy in

Cairo, and Israeli leaders are being pursued for war crimes. Even the Israeli orchestra was disrupted in London in protest of Israeli war crimes. The Israeli coalitions are disintegrating ... this means one thing: The Israelis are becoming disrespected guests, an indicator that Israel is going through a state of decline after reaching the top ... reaching the highest point of corruption of course. Every beginning has an end.

Palestinian Cyberspace

Until The Dust Settles
<<http://www.bitterlemons.org/inside.php?id=135>>

Ghassan Khatib, co-editor of Bitterlemons website and director of the PAs Government Media Center, opines, One of the earliest

indicators of the change that can be expected in the Israel-Egypt relationship is the active and relatively successful role Egypt adopted concerning Gaza and the internal Palestinian need for reconciliation. The May 2011 agreement signed by Fatah and Hamas was one of the earliest fruits of these transformations. More recently, the strong Egyptian and Arab support for Turkey's appeal to international legal organizations concerning its conflict with Israel over the killing of eight Turkish peace activists in 2010 is another sign of change. In addition, we are now frequently witnessing powerful demonstrations in front of the Israeli embassy in Egypt by the Egyptian public, opposing violations of Palestinian rights. These are all examples of what Israel has in store for it in the future.

SEPTEMBER 5

Dailies carry front page reports of President Abbas September 4 speech at the Fatah Revolutionary Council meeting in Ramallah. In his remarks, Abbas stressed that the goal behind going to the UN is to obtain full membership of the state of Palestine and then to return to negotiations on clear and specific terms. Abbas added, the Palestinian decision does not aim at isolating or delegitimizing Israel, but rather at removing the legitimacy of occupation, which must end because the Palestinian people are the only people who are still under occupation. Abbas stressed that the Palestinians are ready to listen to any suggestion that could bring both parties back to the negotiating table on the basis of ceasing settlement activities, acceptance of a two-state solution along the 1967 lines, and within an acceptable timeframe.

Weekend Stories

SEPTEMBER 4

Dailies report that Prime Minister Fayyad expressed his deep concern over the leaked UN Palmer Report on the 2010 Gaza flotilla incident. Fayyad said in a press statement, Despite the fact that we have not yet read the report, the possibility of its indication that the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip is legal encourages Israel to continue its violations of our people's rights, particularly in Gaza. Fayyad reiterated that the PA will continue working with all international organizations to end the suffering of the people of Gaza and to lift the Israeli blockade.

SEPTEMBER 3

Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam report on Turkey's decision to expel the Israeli ambassador in Ankara and to freeze all military agreements with Israel, which reiterated its rejection of apologizing for attacking the Turkish ship. Meanwhile, Turkey announced that it will seek the prosecution of all Israelis responsible for the crimes committed during the attack. The Turkish embassy in