

RELEASE IN PART
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From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 8:51 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Turkish request for assistance: Nautilus has agreed to help
Attachments: Document.pdf

Good news.

From: Baily, Jess L
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 08:03 AM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J; Gordon, Philip H; [REDACTED]; Shapiro, Andrew J;
 Sullivan, Jacob J; [REDACTED];
 [REDACTED];
 Nuland, Victoria J; [REDACTED];
Cc: Kim, Yuri J; Fernandes, Anthony C; Carraway, Cassandra B; NEA-Syria-DL: 'Meghan Gregonis' [REDACTED]
 <Meghan_Gregonis [REDACTED]>; Daalder, Ivo H; 'esherwood-randal' [REDACTED];
 [REDACTED]; Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdhir, Kamala S; Kaidanow, Tina S; Rubin, Eric S; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Dibble,
 Elizabeth L; Hof, Frederic C; Ford, Robert J (OES); Ellison, Janine M; Lester, Raymond; Citrin, Ruth;
 [REDACTED]; Khoury, Nabeel A: [REDACTED];
 [REDACTED]; Roquemore, Darlene M;
 Hartley, Brent R; Tremont, Pamela M; Holmes, Stephanie E; [REDACTED];
 Degnan, Kelly C; [REDACTED]; Wentworth, Mark A
Subject: Turkish request for assistance: Nautilus has agreed to help

Alcon:

Yesterday the research vessel D/V Nautilus indicated that it would be available to help Turkey with its search for the RF-4's wreckage. The ship is poised to set sail from Istanbul sometime later today and arrive in two days to the area.

Turkey will fully support this expedition. It has said it will provide any fuel, transport for any crew (including Robert Ballard due to arrive in Istanbul on 7/2) down to the area, and lodging for those crew members not traveling from Istanbul. MFA has informed the government of Syria (via dipnote to Syria's consulate in Istanbul) that the Nautilus will join the search effort, and the SARG has acknowledged. Turkey has also agreed to accept liability for the ship while it is in Syrian waters. (The documentation on that is forthcoming.) There is already a Turkish naval presence to accompany. Nautilus has told us it must be in Istanbul no later than July 12 to continue its planned research in the Black Sea. The ship's crew about 20 includes various nationalities (Irish, Ukrainian, Russian, Filipino) and research staff of 25 is almost entirely American. Five or six Turks from MFA, Navy and scientific institutions will also join them during the operation.

Nautilus has asked embassy for a statement that helping Turkey is in U.S. interests, something which we have said in various fora. The ambassador has sent the attached letter to Robert Ballard. That said, we have also made clear to the Nautilus that it is not acting on behalf of or in a contractual relationship with the U.S. government, and that ultimately it is their decision to participate.

We are working on public affairs angle of this, but we believe it will begin with an announcement by Turkey that they made such a request and the Nautilus has accepted. We should welcome this initiative but let others announce and describe.

That said, Embassy believes we should keep open our options developed by DoD, as there is always the chance this might fall through due to some as of now unforeseen development over the next two days or we can somehow assist after the Nautilus departs.

Jess

Jess L. Baily
Deputy Chief of Mission
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SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ricciardone, Francis J
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 4:34 PM
To: Baily, Jess L; Gordon, Philip H; 'Jim.Townsend [redacted]'; Shapiro, Andrew J; Sullivan, Jacob J;
[redacted]; Nuland, Victoria J; [redacted]
Cc: Kim, Yuri J; Fernandes, Anthony C; Carraway, Cassandra B; NEA-Syria-DL; 'Meghan_Gregonis [redacted]'; Daalder, Ivo H; 'esherwood-randall [redacted]'; Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdhir, Kamala S; Kaidanow, Tina S; Rubin, Eric S; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Hof, Frederic C; Ford, Robert J (OES); Ellison, Janine M; Lester, Raymond; Citrin, Ruth; [redacted]; Roquemore, Darlene M; Hartley, Brent R; Tremont, Pamela M; Holmes, Stephanie E; [redacted] Degnan, Kelly C
Subject: Re: Renewed Turkish request for assistance

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we can safely presume we (USN) will not be able to provide much if anything by way of un-crewed equipment, or anything at all any time soon.

But as we are checking avail of USN resources, we will gently try to lead GoT to accept reality that this proposition is far harder than a needle-in-a-haystack search, and that lining up the E/V Nautilus now for early Sept would make for the best they can do by way of placating public sensitivities. I suspect they will reach that conclusion in due course anyway. So we might start looking at a modest contribution of funding (perhaps from Nautilus co-sponsor, USN?) for fuel costs.

Francis J. Ricciardone
US Ambassador
Ankara, Turkey

From: Baily, Jess L
To: Ricciardone, Francis J; Gordon, [redacted]; Shapiro, Andrew J; Sullivan, Jacob J; [redacted]; Stavridis, James [redacted]; 'Butler, Lawrence E AMB [redacted]'; 'Greenert, Jonathan W ADM CNO' [redacted]; '>'; 'Chaudhry, Asif J AMB OPNAV, N00H' [redacted]; Nuland, Victoria J; [redacted]
Cc: Kim, Yuri J; Fernandes, Anthony C; Carraway, Cassandra B; NEA-Syria-DL; 'Meghan_Gregonis [redacted]'; [redacted]; Daalder, Ivo H; 'esherwood-randall [redacted]'; [redacted]; Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdhir, Kamala S; Kaidanow, Tina S; Rubin, Eric S; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Hof, Frederic C; Ford, Robert J (OES); Nuland, Victoria J; Ellison, Janine M; Lester, Raymond; Citrin, Ruth; [redacted]; [redacted]; Roquemore, Darlene M; Hartley, Brent R; Tremont, Pamela M; Holmes, Stephanie E; [redacted]

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[redacted]; Degnan, Kelly C

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Sent: Tue Jun 26 15:44:01 2012
Subject: RE: Renewed Turkish request for assistance

Some of you are already aware of this; for others this is news.

MFA and TGS renewed a request last night for assistance with salvage – not a vessel but equipment (deep water photos, sonar... perhaps an ROV?) and personnel that would work off a Turkish vessel. (See below attached dipnote and email.)

Obviously response requires us to know whether this is even feasible; only then comes a political decision to place U.S. forces on a Turkish ship operating in Syrian waters. (ODC has been in touch w/ EUCOM and NAVEUR). [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] the items requested from us are much needed for any serious search for wreckage.

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From: Carraway, Cassandra B
To: Roquemoire, Darlene M; Merz, James P; [redacted]; 'Gregonis, Meghan' [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Rubin, Eric S; Kaidanow, Tina S; SES-O_SWO; Ricciardone, Francis J; [redacted]; Hartley, Brent R; Tremont, Pamela M; Holmes, Stephanie E; [redacted]; Baily, Jess L; Fernandes, Anthony C
Sent: Tue Jun 26 12:46:30 2012
Subject: Turkish Jet: GoT request

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Attached is the dip note received from GoT late last night, requesting equipment and personnel to help investigate the Turkish jet crash site.

As DCM noted below, they are looking for a capability to assess the site (photos, radar, sonar... perhaps an ROV?) – firstly and most importantly to search for pilots, but also to depict the wreckage location and layout to shed light on events. We have nothing more specific from GoT at this stage.

SDO Gen Daniel is in communication with EUCOM and NAVEUR on possible solutions they might be able to provide.

Beyond DoD, we welcome any input on interagency or private sector sources of assistance that could be procured.

Per Desk advice, we are cognizant that we will need to establish in advance who will pay for any such support.

Cassandra

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SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ricciardone, Francis J**Sent:** Saturday, June 23, 2012 5:58 PM**To:** Gordon, Philip H; [REDACTED]; Shapiro, Andrew J; Sullivan, Jacob J; 'Winnefeld, James A ADM JCS VCJCS'; 'Stavridis, James G. ADM'; 'Butler, Lawrence E AMB'; 'Greenert, Jonathan W ADM CNO'; 'Chaudhry, Asif J AMB OPNAV, N00H'; Nuland, Victoria J**Cc:** Baily, Jess L; Kim, Yuri J; Fernandes, Anthony C; Carraway, Cassandra B; NEA-Syria-DL;

'Meghan_Gregonis [REDACTED]; Daalder, Ivo H; 'esherwood-randall [REDACTED]; Zeya, Uzra S; Lakhdir, Kamala S;

Kaidanow, Tina S; Rubin, Eric S; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Hof, Frederic C; Ford, Robert J (OES); Nuland,

Victoria J; Ellison, Janine M; Lester, Raymond; Netos, Eleftherios (Terry) E; Citrin, Ruth; [REDACTED];

Khoury, Nabeel A; [REDACTED]; Roquemore, Darlene

M; Hartley, Brent R; Tremont, Pamela M; Holmes, Stephanie E; [REDACTED]

Degnan, Kelly C

Subject: Ankara 17:45 update on TUAf/Syria from MFA Cevik:

Jake, it might upstage Halit Cevik if S betrays her full knowledge of following when she speaks w/ Davut in a couple hours, so discretion pls.

1. GoT priorities, are:

- (1) find the pilots
- (2) establish the facts.

2. before accomplishing above, will take a reserved media line -- no specific plans for formal media statement by PM or FM over the weekend though this could of course happen. MFA will brief dip community Sunday, after which they expect more to get out in media. Thinking now is to hold formal media presentations until Monday parliamentary session. But GoT "will have to respond somehow," once SAR finished + facts fully established.

3. TU will "inform" NAC on Tuesday.

4. facts established so far about the incident, "from radar tracks:"

-- the RF-4 was shot down on its SECOND Run, inside Syrian airspace over territorial waters.

-- pilots had been warned by TU air traffic control (NFI, presume Malatya -- area TU AFB) that it had strayed into Syrian airspace too close to shore, and should move out. It had just begun to turn and head directly back to Turkey when it was hit.

-- the RF-4 was squawking IFF, so Syrians definitely knew it was an unarmed TUAf a/c.

-- no warning or any contact by Syrians w/ the RF-4 before launching the missile

5. TU has found a private Turkish salvage ship which will deploy in about 2 days and reportedly can work at the local depths. If they need any consultation or other eqpt, MFA will help them get in touch with any US mil or other experts. GoT Appreciates USN consideration of its previous request for availability and also appreciates that USN can not reflag its ships.

6. Based on forgoing, I'd suggest any weekend statements to media from Washington along following lines:

-- Sec Clinton (+ SecDef Panetta?), and US military leaders, have spoken with their counterparts to express our concern for the situation, especially for the two pilots who are still missing.

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We pray for their safe recovery.

-- our diplomats and military officers at all levels likewise have remained in close and constant touch with Turkish counterparts since the incident occurred Friday afternoon.

-- We have offered all appropriate assistance. At this time, we understand that Turkey is conducting SAR with its own capabilities.

-- We support the GoT's immediate priorities to recover the pilots and to establish the facts, before it decides what further steps it wishes to take.

-- Obviously, the GoT, not us, will make public the results of its investigation and its decisions in consequence.

-- of course, we will stay in the closest consultations with our Turkish allies as the facts become clearer, and as they and we decide how each of us will proceed in the coming days.