

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

As of September 15, 2012

RELEASE IN PART
B5, B6

The Secretary's Call Sheet for
Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu

(SBU) Purpose of Call: Foreign Minister Davutoglu wishes to offer his condolences over the loss of Ambassador Stevens and three additional Chief of Mission personnel in the September 11 attack on the U.S. Mission in Benghazi.



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(SBU) Background: Given Turkey's presence in Benghazi, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] reached out to U/S Sinirlioglu September 11 to ask for Turkey's assistance in obtaining details of the breaking situation at U.S. Consulate General Benghazi. Both the Turkish Ambassador to Libya and the Turkish Consul General in Benghazi quickly engaged Libyan officials and provided critical details of the attack, and the Consul General offered to shelter any American at his residence in Benghazi.

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(SBU) The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a strong statement September 12 condemning the attacks and called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice as soon as possible. FM Davutoglu sent you a condolence letter September 12, and President Gul and PM Erdogan sent condolences to President Obama. Additionally, in a speech at the European Strategy Annual Meeting in Yalta September 14, PM Erdogan condemned the film, suggested that freedom of expression should not allow such insults, and urged U.S. authorities to take measures against the producers. He also stressed that provocative insults do not legitimize violence or terrorism, and continued to condemn the attacks.

(SBU) Turkey served as our protecting power in Libya after we closed our Embassy in Libya in 2011. Then-Turkish Ambassador to Libya, Salim Levent Sahinkaya, was instrumental in securing the release and safe departure of several Americans being held in Libya by Qadhafi forces in March 2011. You presented him with an award during your June 7 trip to Istanbul.

(SBU) Upcoming Engagement: Deputy Secretary Burns was expected in Ankara to chair the second meeting of the U.S.-Turkey Working Group Syria September 14, but after the tragedy in Libya, Ambassador Ford and Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Derek Chollet led the delegation in his place. PRM A/S Ann Richard and USAID Assistant Administrator Nancy Lindborg were also present.

(SBU) Separately, PM Erdogan requested to speak with the President September 9, and the call is scheduled for September 18. You have agreed to meet with FM Davutoglu on the margins of UNGA but, on instructions, we have not yet notified the government of Turkey.

Attachments:

Tab 1 – Turkish PM Erdogan's September 14 Statement

Tab 2 – Ankara 1236: "Turks Offer Condolences"

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