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WARN WARNING: TOPIC: DISSENT, DOMESTIC ECONOMIC, DOMESTIC POLITICAL,
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERI SERIAL: GMP20010811000068

COUN COUNTRY: IRAN, IRAQ, ISRAEL, SYRIA, TURKEY

SUBJ SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2--Turkish Islamist Press Review 11 Aug

TEXT TEXT:

[FBIS Report] The following review, filed by Nicosia Bureau, is a roundup of reports on noteworthy editorials, articles, and columns appearing in the 11 August editions of the Turkish Islamist newspapers Yeni Safak, Akit, Zaman, Turkiye, and Milli Gazete. Further processing of summarized items may be requested if desired.

Yeni Safak [Daily catering to Islamic intellectuals]

Under the banner headline, "The Key is ESDI," Yeni Safak publishes a front-page report which claims that at the center of the debate between Motherland Party (ANAP) Leader Mesut Yilmaz and the General Staff over the issue of national security is the disagreement between Turkey and the EU over the European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI).

In a 550-word article entitled "Have You not Seen This Film Before?" on page 5, Yeni Safak columnist Mehmet Barlas comments

sarcastically on what he refers to as Mesut Yilmaz's assumption of the role of a champion of democracy and civilianization.

In an 850-word article entitled "A Campaign to Resuscitate Mesut Yilmaz" on page 9, Yeni Safak columnist Cengiz Candar argues that recent press reports and newscasts praising Yilmaz for raising the issue of national security are a campaign orchestrated by Yilmaz himself to increase his popular approval rating at a time when he is about to be faced with accusations of corruption.

In a 1500-word article entitled "Corruption and Democracy" on page 10, Yeni Safak columnist Nazli Ilıcak accuses Yilmaz of trying to increase his party's share of the vote in starting the controversy over the subject of national security and concurs with Cengiz Candar in seeing Yilmaz's recent convention speech as a "tactical maneuver" to obstruct steps to call him to account for "taking advantage of the 28 February process to establish a corrupt order." Ilıcak also praises Professor Mustafa Erdogan for an article criticizing the latest General Staff statement published in the Web site of the Liberal Thought Association.

Akit [Extreme fundamentalist daily]

Under the banner headline, "Debate Over Extravagance," Akit publishes a front-page report which asserts that the controversy over the issue of national security has gained a new dimension amid claims by certain politicians contradicted by the Turkish Armed Forces that military spending has reached extravagant levels. The report quotes Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Leader Besim Tibuk as saying that all military spending should be controlled and Deputy Chairman of the Felicity Party (SP) Mehmet Bekaroglu as saying that a country where national security issues fall within the military's purview can never be democratic.

Also front-paged in Akit is a report entitled "Here is the New Program," which asserts that the New Initiative led by Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced an "ambitious" platform. According to the report, the nascent party's program includes targets such as increasing the gross national income to \$10,000 and establishing an online "virtual" educational system.

In a 900-word article entitled "Who if not Yilmaz?" on pages 1 and 11, Akit columnist Abdurrahman Dilipak argues that Mesut Yilmaz has been assigned by Europe to campaign for a revision to Turkey's national security policies by reason of being the most appropriate person in the coalition for such an initiative. "Had Erdogan's New Initiative voiced this demand, the military's reaction would have been quite harsh, Erdogan's credibility rating would have soared, and the media would not have backed the demand. For Erdogan is in one sense an African American whereas Yilmaz, to extend the metaphor, is a white Protestant who champions the Anglo-Saxon tradition."

Zaman [Daily said to be controlled by the Fethullah Gulen organization]

Under the headline, "Debate Must End," Zaman publishes a

front-page report which says that Prime Minister Ecevit has said that continuing the debate over national security is uncalled-for and that he does not agree with Yilmaz that national security concerns will forever obstruct Turkey's integration with the EU.

In the first of an unspecified number of installments of an article entitled "It is Getting Hotter" on page 3, Zaman columnist Ahmet Turan Alkan comments sarcastically on the causes of "alien *interest" in Turkey indicated by recent UFO sightings. "The Turks are like no other people. The way they react to events is different and enigmatic. The nation is able to maintain a fa[c cedilla]jade of normality in the face of absolutely awful governance ... Although the country appears to have a government when viewed from outer space, it is very difficult to determine who is governing Turkey."

In a 650-word article entitled "A Long and Arduous Process" on page 10, Zaman columnist Ali Bulac criticizes the recent European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruling upholding the closure of the Welfare party (RP), accusing the ECHR of issuing a verdict based on a critical assessment of Islam rather than the RP's platform.

Turkiye [Nationalist-leaning daily]

Under the banner headline, "Country Reduced to Soup Kitchens," Turkiye publishes a front-page report which claims that in Istanbul (MORE)

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