

CHRONOLOGY JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2001*

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I. DOMESTIC

January 01- A cargo ship carrying illegal immigrants splits in two and sinks after slamming into rocks off the southern coast of Turkey. At least six people die and dozens are missing, officials say.

January 02- In a response to speculations that he would quit politics due to health problems, Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says, "I am not going anywhere. There are still many things I have to do".

January 03- Turkey nearly halves its yearly inflation rate to 39 percent in 2000, raising hopes that the country may be able to reach its goal of single digit inflation by 2002. The yearly inflation rate drops from 69 percent in 1999, the State Statistics Institute says.

January 10- Deputy chairman of the Turkish Atomic Energy Council (TAEK), Dr. Erdener Birol, announces that preliminary analysis of water samples provided by the General Staff have not shown levels of radiation to be higher than normal background radiation in view of the depleted uranium scare among troops serving in the Balkans.

*Prepared from *Turkish Probe* by Research Assistant Atay Akdevelioğlu, Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University.

January 11- Turkey's latest communications satellite, TURKSAT 2A, is lifted into orbit without a hitch by an Ariane rocket from French Guiana.

January 15- Labour and Social Security Minister Yaşar Okuyan says there are around 1 million illegal foreign labourers working in Turkey, and that the government is preparing a law to prevent the foreigners from working illegally.

January 22- Senior coalition partner and Democratic Left Party (DSP) Parliamentary Deputy for Istanbul, Mustafa Düz, resigns from his party and accuses Hüsamettin Özkan, widely held to be the shadow party leader and Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit's right-hand man, of covering up corruption.

January 30- Former minister Hasan Celal Güzel appeals to the European Court of Human Rights protesting the terms of the Conditional Release Law under which his one-year prison sentence is suspended.

February 19- For the first time in the history of the National Security Council (MGK), a prime minister storms out accusing the president of preaching at him in a manner "beyond the rules of politeness or the traditions of the state" and that "a very serious state crisis" has arisen. The statement by Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit sends shockwaves through the already fragile Turkish markets. Turkey begins paying the price of the storm when it is forced to pay an average interest rate of 144 percent for loans to cover maturing debts. Then, the stock market suffers its worst fall ever losing 18 percent, while the clash between the country's top two leaders show no signs of dying down. In the aftermath, Turkey sends its lira currency into a freefall in a dramatic bid to curb a financial crisis while pressure mount for veteran Prime Minister Ecevit to reshuffle his beleaguered government.

February 21- In the midst of crisis, Turkey's financial sector continues its downward spiral, with the stock market plunging another 12 percent in opening session. Overnight lending rates boost to more than 5,000 percent.

February 22- Presidential spokesman Metin Yalman says Sezer will not resign after his public row with the prime minister sparks a financial crisis that forces Turkey to float its currency.

February 22- Angry Turks queue for dollars at foreign exchange offices, blaming the government for the tumbling value of their embattled currency.

February 25- Central Bank governor Gazi Erçel offers his resignation to the government after a financial crisis see the Turkish lira plummet 36 percent, reports say.

February 26- Treasury Under-secretary Selçuk Demiralp resigns following a financial crisis that sends the currency plunging.

March 02- The government appoints World Bank Vice President Kemal Derviş as state minister in charge of the Treasury in a bid to restore confidence in the country's crisis-hit economy.

March 02- The government appoints the deputy governor of the Central Bank, Süreyya Serdengeçti, as head of the Central Bank. Revealing the appointment, Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says Treasury Deputy Under-secretary Ferhat Emil would continue to head the Treasury until a new chief is appointed.

March 03- Zekeriya Temizel, the head of Turkey's Banking supervision and Regulation Agency (BDDK), resigns, a day after a senior World Bank official is appointed to the Cabinet to reform the country's ailing economy and banking sector.

March 06- The Turkish military is reviewing plans to buy \$10 billion worth of planes, helicopters and tanks following the lira's 25 percent drop against the dollar.

March 16- Higher Education Board (YÖK) rules to issue a warning to Fatih University and order it not to take on any students for the 2001-2002 academic year on claims that the university did not comply with the principle of secularism.

March 21- Italy's Telecom Italia Group and a leading Turkish bank launch Turkey's third mobile telephone network (ARIA), promising a total investment of \$1 billion and thousands of jobs by next year.

March 22- An Italian banking group, UniCredito Italiano, and Britain's HSBC offer to buy the bailed-out Demirbank (now HSBC).

March 31- Turkey's civilian and military leaders agree on new measures to tighten controls over Islamic businesses and campaign to curb political Islam, according to newspaper reports.

March 31- Thousands of demonstrators take to the streets in across Turkey to protest against IMF-backed economic reforms.

April 11- Turkish military says that it will postpone 32 spending projects worth \$19.5 billion in an effort to ease the financial crisis.

April 12- Prime Minister Ecevit orders inspectors to investigate whether Gazi Erçel, former Central Bank chief, violated the law by changing his money into dollars days before the Turkish lira plummeted.

April 19- Students from Istanbul University protest the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the economic program during a demonstration in Beyazıt Square.

April 25- Former President Süleyman Demirel states that he is deeply sorry about former State Minister Cavit Çağlar who was arrested in New York on charges of corruption.

May 03- The military warns the government not to allow Türk-Telekom, slated for privatisation in a key part of Turkey's IMF-backed economic recovery program, to end up under foreign control.

May 08- After the resignation of Energy Minister Cumhur Erşümer due to corruption allegations, Prime Minister Ecevit names ANAP Bartın Deputy Zeki Çakan as the new energy minister.

May 08- Dozens of small boats sail in a flotilla across İstanbul's Bosphorus Straits to protest tanker traffic which environmentalists say could cause an ecological disaster in this city of 12 million people.

May 12- The Ankara State Security Court (DGM) banned Gökhan Yardım, chairman of the state-owned Turkish Pipeline Company (BOTAŞ), from travelling abroad, within the requirements of the investigation into the "Blue Stream" project.

August 07- The Turkish military warns Yılmaz, the deputy prime minister and chairman of ANAP, that national security should not be an issue of political exploitation.

August 08- ANAP stands firmly behind Yılmaz saying, "political decision making rests with the nation and with elected organs representing the will of the people."

August 10- Mesut Yılmaz, says that unless Turkey limits the powers of the generals and lifts freedom-curbing laws, it will miss its chances of entering the European Union.

August 11- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit criticises both his coalition partner ANAP leader Yılmaz and the Turkish military, who locked horns after the ANAP leader charged that reforms are being hampered with a "national security syndrome," saying the controversy is hurting Turkey.

August 31- Abdullah Öcalan, the leader of the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), threatens Turkey with war just before World Peace Day, in his message, stating, "If the hand for peace is emptied, 2002 will be the year of war."

September 13- The terrorist attacks which took place on September 11 in the United States leads flags to be lowered half mast in Turkey, in memory of the people that lost their lives in the inhumane attacks.

September 17- Gendarmerie patrols capture a total of 73 foreign nationals attempting to cross into Greece illegally. The migrants are from Iran, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Morocco, Iraq and Algeria.

September 26- Turkey's four-day long International Defence Industry, Aviation and Maritime Fair (IDEF-2001) opens under the shadow of the terrorist attacks staged in the United States. IDEF hosts 32 countries with 252 delegations as well as hundreds of defence companies presenting their products at the fair ground.

September 28- A bomb explodes in McDonald's in Beyoğlu, İstanbul, injuring three, and causing massive material damage. Security officials say a suspicious package was noticed shortly before the explosion.

October 02- Military Electronics Industry (Aselsan) and the Defence Industry Under-secretariat sign protocol for the production of 148 stinger missiles within six years. The missile models are called 'Atılgan', 'Zıpkın' and 'Bora'.

November 02- Security forces detain 175 illegal immigrants from Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan.

November 15- Police detain 47 Iraqi and Afghan nationals after the would-be migrants illegally cross the border into eastern Turkey.

December 14- Police detain 129 illegal immigrants including Turks, Iraqis, Iranians, Romanians and Afghans near the coastal town of Kaş.

II. BALKAN STATES & CYPRUS ISSUE

January 07- Attackers destroy the car of a Turkish diplomat in an arson attack outside his suburban home in Greece. No one is hurt.

January 09- Alfred Moses, the special U.S. presidential envoy on Cyprus arrives as part of a fresh international effort for the resumption of stalled talks for the reunification of the island.

January 10- President of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Rauf Denktaş, is demanding recognition of his state as the price for attending the next round of reunification talks, U.S. presidential emissary Alfred Moses says.

January 11- U.S. Presidential Emissary Moses states that Washington wanted a united Cyprus to enter the EU.

January 11- Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides insists in talks with Britain's special envoy that the format of UN-sponsored talks on the divided island's future must remain despite Turkish Cypriot objections.

January 12- Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) sign a protocol envisaging enhanced economic and financial co-operation between the two countries and finalising the plans to transfer a \$350-million credit to the TRNC.

January 12- Turkey says two of its soldiers who served as NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo had been affected by exposure to depleted uranium (DU) munitions used there during the conflict.

January 16- Commander of the Croatian Navy, Vice Adm. Vid Stipetic visits Turkey as the official guest of his Turkish counterpart Adm. İlhami Erdil.

January 16- China pledges its support for a settlement on Cyprus and says that as a member of the UN Security Council it would work to see resolutions on the conflict adopted.

January 22- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou says that Turkey is responsible for the lack of settlement of the Cyprus dispute and adds that this situation will not help Turkey on its way to European Union membership.

January 24- Balkan neighbours, Bulgaria and Turkey, clash over visa issuing procedures in the latest hiccup to their improving but still delicate relations.

January 25- Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denктаş says that he would not attend more UN-mediated talks over Cyprus unless he received the international recognition accorded to Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides.

January 26- TRNC President Rauf Denктаş says the TRNC does not constitute an obstacle on Turkey's way to European Union membership.

February 02- Gunther Verheugen, EU Commissioner responsible for enlargement, says Turkey may become an EU member without having to come up with a solution to the Cyprus dispute.

February 02- The Greek press reports that both the United States and Turkey are pressuring Greece to ban the outlawed Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C), in Greece.

February 02- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem says Turkey places special importance on the stability of the Balkans and therefore it would continue to support all attempts that may improve stability in the region during a one-day visit to Macedonia.

February 04- Land Forces Commander Gen. Hilmi Özkök says they are observing Greek-Greek Cypriot efforts for fully arming the island including the bringing of Baf Air Force Base in line with the so-called joint military doctrine.

February 07- Croatian President Stipe Mesic arrives in Ankara and asks for Turkey's support for his countries' NATO membership during his two-day visit to Turkey.

February 09- Turkey complains to Greece about a decree under preparation accusing Turks of genocide against Greeks in Anatolia in the early 1920s, and Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says he hopes the decree would not be passed.

February 15- The presidents of Balkan neighbours Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey agree at a summit in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, to set up a centre for fighting organised crime.

February 16- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer reportedly urges Bulgarian and Romanian presidents to take tough measures in a bid to prevent activities of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) terrorist organisation in these countries.

February 19- Greek Foreign Ministry says Premier Costas Simitis will try and speed up parliamentary ratification of a series of low-level agreements between Greece and Turkey that are designed to improve relations between the two countries.

February 22- Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, seeking to ease tension with neighbouring Turkey, asks officials to remove the word "genocide" from a decree saying Turks committed genocide against Greeks living in Anatolia in the 1920s.

February 23- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou and his Turkish counterpart Cem agree to exchange visits in an effort to improve strained relations between the two Aegean neighbours, officials say.

February 27- Croatia conveys to Turkey its willingness to upgrade military co-operation in many fields during Croatian Defence Minister Yozo Radosh's visit to Turkey.

March 02- The foreign ministers of Yugoslavia and Turkey pledge to boost economic and other co-operation between the two countries, following years of poor relations during the Balkan conflicts.

March 08- Ankara, condemning the terror attacks perpetrated by Albanian extremists in Macedonia, says it is deeply concerned about the latest developments in the region.

March 09- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou reportedly states that the status of bilateral relations between Turkey and Greece is dependent on Cyprus.

March 11- As the tension between ethnic Albanians, Macedonians and Serbs continues in the Presevo Valley, Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem says Turkey is closely following developments in the region.

March 11- Greece's Foreign Minister George Papandreou says the only problem between Greece and Turkey is the determination of the continental shelf between the two countries in the Aegean Sea.

March 14- TRNC President Rauf Denктаş warns visiting British officials that taking Cyprus into the European Union will be a serious mistake and would wreck chances of solving the dispute over the island.

March 21- Some 6,000 ethnic Albanians and Turks fleeing violence in Macedonia have arrived in Turkey during the past two weeks, border police said. Thousands more people are expected in the coming days. Most of the refugees have found shelter with relatives in Turkey, where 5 million people trace their roots to the Balkans.

March 22- Prime Minister Ecevit urges Albanian rebels to end fighting in Macedonia, warning that the Balkans cannot endure a new war.

March 23- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit sends letters to U.S. President George W. Bush, NATO Secretary-General George Robertson and the leaders of Balkan countries, conveying Turkey's concerns over the growing tension in Macedonia.

March 24- U.S. President George W. Bush calls for a quick resumption of a stalled UN effort to resolve the 35-year-old Cyprus problem between the two peoples of the eastern Mediterranean island.

March 24- Ankara welcomes remarks by Greek Defence Minister Akis Tsochadzopoulos that Greece will lift its decades-old state of mobilisation for war with Turkey, a symbolic move that reflects an easing of tensions between the two countries, but stresses that actions speak louder than words.

April 02- The Greek Football Association (EPO) calls on the Greek government to throw their backing behind a joint bid with Turkey to stage the European soccer championship in 2008.

April 02- Six Black Sea countries -- Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Georgia -- sign the Black Sea Naval Co-operation Task Group (Blackseafor) agreement, envisaging co-operation in a joint naval force that will be available for humanitarian and environmental operations.

April 05- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou arrives in Ankara for a one-day official visit in a bid to further develop the rapprochement between the two countries that started in the wake of the disastrous earthquake in Turkey in August 1999.

April 05- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu calls on the international community to take more effective steps to end the violence in Macedonia by isolating extremist ethnic groups.

April 06- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou urges Turkey to cut its defence spending, pointing out that Athens is postponing a major purchase of warplanes.

April 09- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmaköđlu says, parallel to the Foreign Ministry's efforts, the Turkish Armed Forces also want to improve ties with Greece.

April 12- Greek Foreign Minister Papandreou salutes a Turkish decision to postpone \$19.5 billion in defence procurements as a step toward further improving relations between the two countries.

April 13- Turkey urges UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to find a new formula to resume stalled talks for the solution of the Cyprus dispute.

April 17- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem, during his official three-day visit to the TRNC, reportedly says that if Greek Cypriots become EU members, there would be no other option for the TRNC but to integrate with Turkey.

April 21- Margaret Papandreou, the mother of Greek Foreign Minister Andreas Papandreou, arrives in Istanbul to attend a meeting of Winpeace.

May 03- Greek President Costis Stefanopoulos says that solving the Cyprus problem will play a significant role in forming confident grounds vis-à-vis Turkish-Greek relations and Turkish-EU affairs.

May 06- The Greek government has decided to take certain steps, including increasing quotas in Greek universities for Turkish students, in improving the rights of the Turkish minority living particularly in Western Thrace.

May 07- Amid increasing tension between Macedonian forces and ethnic Albanian separatists, Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski postpones a two-day visit to Turkey, saying his country was at a critical juncture.

May 09- Greece's Navy chief Giorgos Theodoroulakis is to boycott a NATO ceremony in Turkey after Ankara rejects his flight plan over the eastern Aegean, which it says should be kept free of the military-related actions.

May 09- Nicos Sampson, the leader of a brief Greek-inspired coup which prompted the 1974 Turkish peace operation of Cyprus, dies.

May 10- Turkey's Foreign Minister İsmail Cem pays a one-day visit to Macedonia and neighbouring Kosovo amid continuing tension and violence between ethnic Albanian rebels and Macedonian forces.

May 11- After the European Court of Human Rights decision that condemned Turkey for human rights violations in Cyprus, Ankara shows great reaction against the decision while it is welcomed in Greece and by Greek Cypriots as a victory.

May 14- TRNC President Rauf Denktaş says the talks between the two sides in Cyprus had become meaningless after the European Court of Human Rights' decision that Turkish Cypriots committed human rights abuses after the 1974 operation.

May 14- Turkey takes over the command of a NATO anti-mining operation in a ceremony boycotted by Greece's navy chief because of a row over the military status of an Aegean island.

May 18- A European Court of Human Rights verdict condemning Turkey for abuses in Northern Cyprus should be directed to TRNC not to Turkey, Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says.

May 19- Gunther Verheugen, EU Commissioner responsible for enlargement, says that the Cyprus dispute threatens the enlargement of the European Union.

May 21- TRNC Parliament Speaker Ertuğrul Hasipoğlu says that the Greek Cypriot administration's EU membership will terminate a possible basis for agreement on the island.

May 23- Turkey and Greece agree to form an 80-member joint rescue team in case of earthquakes, landslides or floods.

May 28- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says admission of the Greek Cypriots into the European Union without a 'permanent solution' to the 38-year-old problem on the eastern Mediterranean island would have very negative consequences.

May 28- Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denктаş says that the results of an election in the south of the island showed Greek Cypriots do not want to find a solution to the Cyprus problem.

May 28- Denктаş designates National Unity Party (UBP) leader Derviş Eroğlu to form the new government.

May 29- Prime Minister Ecevit cites the peaceful division of Czechoslovakia as a model for a two-state solution to the Cyprus problem.

May 29- The National Security Council of Turkey declares that full membership of the European Union for the Greek Cypriots will both deepen the division of the island and create uncertainties for peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean.

June 03- TRNC President Rauf Denктаş reiterates that a solution insisted on by Greek Cypriots cannot be accepted and it must be based on both side's joint will.

June 05- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his twice yearly Cyprus report, accuses the TRNC of preventing the UN peace-keeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) from carrying out its peace task in the northern part of the island.

June 06- Turkish Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmaköğlü meets with his Greek counterpart Akis Tsochadzopoulos in Thessalonica.

June 07- UN Secretary-General Annan will maintain his adviser to Cyprus at least until the end of this year, despite a lack of progress in resolving the dispute over the Mediterranean island.

June 07- In a further effort to improve bilateral relations, Turkey will lift visa requirements for Bulgarians, the Turkish Embassy announces.

June 08- Amid continuing tension and clashes in the region, Turkey conveyed its concerns to the Macedonian government concerning the attacks against Turk and Albanian homes and workplaces on June 6, in Bitola.

June 08- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou said Greece will veto any deal between the European Union and Turkey for the creation of an EU force if the agreement runs contrary to Greek interests.

June 11- As tension escalated in Macedonia, Turkey accelerated its diplomatic efforts, both in Ankara and Skopje, by calling on all sides to end the violence.

June 12- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş declared that the TRNC would like to make a deal with the Greek Cypriot leadership on the basis of the principles on which the 1960 Cyprus Republic was established.

June 15- The European Council warns Turkey once again to pay compensation to Greek Cypriot citizen Titiana Loizidou.

June 15- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer, during his visit to İzmir, says Turkey is in favour of dialogue in the search for a solution of the problems between Turkey and Greece, and this is the only way forward.

June 15- The UN Security Council extends the peace keeping mission for a further six months in Cyprus and backs UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's efforts to settle the decades-old dispute on the island.

June 17- Turkey and the TRNC show strong reaction against the UN Security Council's decision to extend the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus saying that it is not binding for the TRNC since the UN has not taken Turkey's and the TRNC's views into consideration when it was making the decision.

June 21- President Sezer, during his visit to Romania, pledges Turkey's support for Romania's efforts to join NATO when the alliance decides to take in new members at a summit next year.

June 23- Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem meets Greece's George Papandreou on the Greek island of Samos (Sisam) for a weekend of sightseeing, a boat trip to a Turkish holiday resort and excursions to historic sites.

June 24- The Turkish and Greek foreign ministers agree to five new co-operation fields aimed at furthering bilateral relations, they reveal in Kuşadası.

June 26- The U.S. State Department's Cyprus co-ordinator, Ambassador Tom Weston, says the U.S. Turkey may face certain difficulties in their relations if the deadlock continues in the Cyprus dispute.

June 27- "The counterpart at the Council of Europe is the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus regarding the Loizidou case, no matter if the council recognises the state or not," the TRNC Foreign and Defence Ministry says.

June 27- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu urges Macedonian leaders to resolve their problems politically rather than by attacking ethnic Albanian militants hunkered down in the hills near the Kosovo border.

June 27- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem warns EU countries about their Cyprus policies and says Turkey will show a strong reaction if the EU accepts the Greek Cypriot Administration's membership.

June 28- Turkey issues a travel warning asking Turks to avoid travelling to Macedonia.

July 02- TRNC President Rauf Denktaş warns that seeking a settlement of the Cyprus problem could further complicate the almost four-decade-old problem.

July 10- Volkan Vural, the secretary-general for EU Affairs, once again warns the EU that the Greek Cypriot administration's EU membership will make the Cyprus dispute more complicated.

July 19- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem pays a one day working visit to Macedonia amid tensions in Skopje in order to listen to both sides.

July 23- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş says he will meet UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York and might move toward resumption of UN-backed Cyprus peace talks.

July 25- Turkish Cypriot President Denktaş says a planned meeting between himself and UN Secretary-General Annan in early August won't mean the deadlock in Cyprus proximity talks process is over and the talks resumed.

August 01- Albanian Foreign Minister Paskal Milo visits Ankara.

August 02- United by worries of future disasters, earthquake experts from Greece and Turkey promised Thursday increased co-operation to study a major fault line that links both countries.

August 21- Macedonian Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva visits Ankara.

August 23- Turkish Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Faruk Loğoğlu arrives in northern Cyprus for talks with President Rauf Denктаş ahead of the scheduled meeting between the Turkish Cypriot President and the UN secretary-general in Salzburg next week.

August 25- A few days before meeting UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denктаş insists Cyprus peace talks could only restart if he is acknowledged as equal to Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides.

August 25- Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Vassilev pays an official visit to Turkey.

August 27- A Greek soccer delegation travels to Turkey to discuss a possible joint bid for the 2008 European soccer championships.

August 27- Denктаş meets EU Enlargement Commissioner Gunther Verheugen in Zurich, en route to Salzburg, Austria, where he is due to meet UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

August 28- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denктаş meets UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in Austria.

Kofi Annan decides to send an envoy to Cyprus immediately in an effort to restart peace talks on the island, the United Nations announces.

August 29- A United Nations envoy arrives in Cyprus to try and revive stalled reunification talks between the island's Greeks and Turks.

August 31- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou says that he expects a crisis with Turkey to erupt soon before the EU membership of Cyprus.

September 05- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou is heckled by a handful of Cypriot students angry at a display of amity with his Turkish counterpart two months ago.

September 09- 26 refugees, attempt to migrate to the Greek Island of Kos (Istanköy), are captured at Bodrum. One of the refugees is lost at sea.

September 11- Greek coastguards detain 69 illegal immigrants, mostly Iranians, off the eastern Aegean island of Kos in the latest haul of illegal immigrants attempting to reach Europe.

September 21- Three Turkish citizens, who were arrested on Midilli (Lesbos) island last month, are accused by the Greek authorities of spying. According to claims in the statement made by the Marine Trade Ministry of Greece, the three Turkish citizens were observing the activities of war ships and military units on Midilli Island.

September 24- Amid one of the most serious crises of its history, Turkey provides \$160 million to the TRNC, including \$20 million to TRNC Development Bank, due to a protocol signed by State Minister Şükrü Sina Gürel and Turkish Cypriot Deputy Prime Minister Salih Coşar.

October 01- Greek Government Spokesman Dimitri Reppas reacts to Bülent Ecevit's claims linking the Greek Cypriot Administration to money laundering traffic.

October 15- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem receives Hashim Tachi, the head of the Kosovo Democratic Party.

October 22- US State Department Special Co-ordinator for Cyprus Thomas Weston arrives in Ankara.

October 23- Thomas Weston, special Cyprus Co-ordinator of the U.S. Department of State meets with Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Uğur Ziyal.

October 23- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem receives the leader of the "Alliance for Kosovo's Future" and leader of the Kosovar Albanians Ramush Haradinaj.

October 25- A Cyprus settlement remains a high priority for the United States, Washington's special envoy to the island, Thomas Weston says.

October 25- Cyprus will be among the first candidates to join the European Union, Romani Prodi, the president of the EU Commission says.

October 26- European Commission head Romano Prodi expresses regret that Turkish Cypriots spurn a UN proposal for peace talks on the island.

October 30- Turkish military says that it is postponing an air and sea exercise off Northern Cyprus in an apparent move to free up the air corridors for allied military aircraft involved in strikes against Afghanistan.

November 02- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem says Turkey may soon be compelled to take a "costly decision" on Cyprus.

November 02- UN envoy to Cyprus Alvaro de Soto embarks on fresh efforts to revive talks for the reunification of the island.

November 03- Deputy Premier Devlet Bahçeli says Turkey will not agree to any compromise on Cyprus, even if the decision would come at a "cost" to its aspirations to join the European Union.

November 04- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says Turkey could "annex" the break away Turkish Cypriot state if the island's internationally recognised Greek Cypriot government becomes a member of the EU.

November 05- Alvaro de Soto, the special Cyprus envoy of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, meets Turkish officials in an effort to revive talks over the island's future.

November 05- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer says that it is necessary to create a common ground to solve the Cyprus issue, and both the Turkish and Greek sides of Cyprus must start proximity talks.

November 06- Greece says it will probably return to Turkey more than 1,000 illegal immigrants aboard a drifting cargo ship that was towed to the Ionian Sea island of Zakynthos.

November 06- Turkish Foreign Minister İsmail Cem, one of the architects of improved ties with Greece, arrives in Athens, with the dispute over Cyprus heating up ahead of its entry into the EU.

November 06- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu goes to Croatia as the official guest of his Croatian counterpart Jozo Rados.

November 06- Five people are drowned and 12 are missing in the waters of the Aegean Sea when a boat carrying immigrants illegally attempting to reach Greece from Turkey capsizes.

November 07- A second vessel carrying 16 refugees attempting to illegally emigrate to the Greek island of Kos capsizes in Bodrum. Three refugees are rescued, one is missing and 13, including one Turk, die.

November 08- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denктаş urges Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides to meet him for "heart-to-heart" talks to head off a looming crisis over the Mediterranean island.

November 11- Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides turns down a direct "heart-to-heart" talks offer by Denктаş saying such a process could be possible only after the Turkish Cypriot leader returns to the United Nations-sponsored negotiations process.

November 11- Greece cannot approve any future EU expansion if it does not include Greek Cyprus, Foreign Minister George Papandreou is quoted as saying.

November 14- Turkish Cypriot President Denктаş says he is determined to meet with Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides because things are not progressing well and Cyprus may land into an explosive situation if Greek Cypriots insist on EU accession before a political settlement to the Cyprus problem.

November 15- TRNC marks the 18th anniversary of its proclamation amid the paradox of increased tension on the prospect of EU membership of the island and signs of reconciliation between the leaders of the two peoples of the island.

November 15- Glafcos Clerides "conditionally" accepts an invitation to meet Rauf Denктаş, a spokesman of the Turkish Cypriot presidential office says.

November 16- Rauf Denктаş sends a third letter to Glafcos Clerides thanking him for accepting invitation to talks.

November 17- Clerides confirms he agrees to a meeting with Denктаş in a new bid to push forward a flagging peace process on the island.

November 18- Ecevit says an end to the Cyprus dispute will depend on Clerides and his respect for the existence of two separate states on the island.

November 20- Denктаş says he received a letter from Clerides saying that he accepts a "heart-to-heart" summit meeting on the island on December 4.

November 21- The General Staff announces that two Greek F-16 fighters violated Turkish airspace on November 16 but were chased off by Turkish jets.

November 23- Turkish Parliament shuts its doors to cameras, reporters and the public on Friday for its tenth closed session on the Cyprus problem since 1958, while Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denктаş appears to be gearing up to force his Greek Cypriot counterpart Glafcos Clerides to a new and comprehensive process to end the almost four decade old problem.

November 24- Greece say its coastguard intercepts a total of 128 illegal immigrants in its territorial waters and sends all but 12 back to Turkey, under a readmission pact between the two countries.

November 24- Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) accuses Rauf Denктаş of being intransigent and urges the Turkish government not to lend him support.

November 27- The National Security Council declares its continued support for Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denктаş and issues a stern warning to the EU, planning to enlist in two years time the Greek Cypriot administration as a member, that Turkey will not allow creation of a situation on Cyprus that will render the Turkish Cypriot people there a minority.

November 27- A member of the European Parliament, Daniel Cohn-Bendit says Turkey must abandon its opposition to the reunification of Cyprus and the use of NATO capabilities by a new EU army if it wants to join the EU.

November 29- Prime minister Bülent Ecevit says EU should take its hands off Cyprus in order for a solution to be arrived at.

November 30- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan asks for a six-month extension of the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus.

December 03- Religious Affairs Directorate Chairman Mehmet Nuri Yılmaz arrives in Bulgaria as an official guest of his counterpart Lubomir Mladenov and Bulgarian Muslims Head Mehmet Selim.

December 04- TRNC President Rauf Denktaş agrees Tuesday to return to the negotiating table and not abandon it before "a comprehensive settlement is achieved."

December 04- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit welcomes the resumption of talks on Cyprus, which he says might "open a few doors."

December 04- Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis hails a decision by Cyprus's rival leaders to hold face-to-face negotiations on ending the dispute in Cyprus, but says a settlement will not be easy.

December 05- Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides crosses to Northern Cyprus for the first time in decades, celebrating a thaw on the divided island by dining with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

December 05- Greece threatens to block an agreement with Turkey that will launch a EU rapid reaction force, demanding changes to protect its national interest.

December 06- Rauf Denktaş cautions against high hopes that a recent thaw in relations with Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides will lead to a quick solution to the island's division.

December 10- Turkish parliamentary speaker Ömer İzgi flies to Romania as a guest of Nicolae Vacariou, the head of the Romanian Senate.

December 10- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş says recognition of the principle of equality and sovereignty rights of the Turkish Cypriot people are the fundamentals of any settlement on Cyprus.

December 10- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou appeals to Turkey to help a settlement in Cyprus and thus pave the way for the opening of a new era in Turkish-Greek bilateral relations.

December 12- The UN Security Council welcomes the first planned face-to-face talks in four years between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, saying fruitful negotiations should lead to a settlement on reunification.

December 14- Maj-Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, a South Korean general, is appointed to lead the more than 1,200 UN peacekeepers stationed in Cyprus to patrol a buffer zone between Greek and Turkish Cyprus.

December 14- The UN Security Council approve a resolution extending the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus until June 15 without any debate.

December 15- Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership criticise a decision by the UN Security Council to extend the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus, accusing the council of failing to treat the island's two communities equally.

December 20- Defence ministers from Balkan countries meet in Antalya to discuss the war on terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and border security.

December 20- Greece will not accept a compromise between the EU and Turkey over the new EU army, if the deal weakens the influence of EU member states in the force's deployment, Greek Defence Minister Yannis Papantoniou warns during a meeting in Antalya, Turkey.

December 21- Turkish Foreign Minister İsmail Cem says that the most important outcome of the new direct talks between the two sides on Cyprus will be the formulation by Denktaş and Clerides of a "vision of settlement."

December 22- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says he expects Greece to agree soon to a planned European rapid reaction force.

December 26- Greek Foreign Minister Yorgo Papandreu sends a new year message to Turkey, expressing hope for the improvement of co-operation with Turkey.

December 27- Turkish army warns of an increase in the number of Greek violations of Turkish airspace in recent weeks.

III. EUROPEAN STATES & the EU

January 03- Turkey completes preparation of its National Program in response to Accession Partnership Document, approved earlier by the EU.

January 07- EU President Romano Prodi says Turkey is starting from a low point in building the modern democracy needed for membership of the EU but it is moving in the right direction.

January 09- Outgoing U.S. Secretary of Defence William Cohen says non-EU member countries, including Turkey should definitely be included within the decision-making mechanism of the proposed defence force of the EU.

January 10- A senior member of Turkish military, Nahit Şenoğlu says no EU country sincerely supports Turkey's ambitions to join the bloc.

January 10- Ambassadors of EU member countries tell Foreign Minister İsmail Cem that the EU Nice Summit conclusions had no implications for Turkey.

January 10- The Foreign Relations Committee of the French National Assembly approves a bill draft recognising the alleged Armenian genocide, marking the last step before the bill's going to the Assembly for final ratification this week.

January 10- Amid the French Parliament's moves to recognise the so-called Armenian genocide, Ankara signals that it wants to have diplomatic contact with Armenia, which does not mean creating full diplomatic relations with Yerevan.

January 15- The European Union's current president Sweden decides to make changes to the official Swedish presence in Istanbul in order to strengthen its diplomatic mission in Turkey.

January 15- Coalition partners meet in a summit to discuss the National Program. Motherland Party leader and Deputy Prime Minister Mesut Yılmaz says that there isn't any conflict of opinion about 95 percent of the National Program, which covers Turkey's position in the framework of the Accession Partnership Document.

January 16- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit is quoted as saying unnamed forces in Turkey are playing a "determined game" to undermine his government, shake the economy and hinder the country's EU bid.

January 17- As the coalition partners once again postpone a possible compromise on substantial issues such as Kurdish TV broadcasting and the abolition of capital punishment, EU member countries start to react in a stronger way to the delays in the National Program.

- The French National Assembly approves a resolution recognising that Armenians were subjected to a genocide at the beginning of the 20th century, drawing an enraged reaction from Turkey.

- U.S. Secretary of State-designate and former Gulf War hero Colin Powell promises to support Turkey throughout his term in office and to work on a solution over the European Army problem plaguing Turkish-EU Relations.

January 19- Şevket Bülent Yahnici, deputy leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) says his party will resist Kurdish language and broadcasting rights demanded by the European Union but will not bring down the government on the issue.

January 19- The Foreign Ministry conducts research into the possible legal repercussions of the French Parliament's decision on the so-called Armenian genocide, the results of which have not pleased Ankara.

January 19- Some 300 Turks gather outside the French Embassy, laying a black wreath to condemn French parliament's decision.

January 22- The military-dominated National Security Council deplores France for adopting a bill last week recognising the alleged killing of Armenians during the waning days of the Ottoman empire as genocide.

January 22- European Court of Human Rights Chief Luzius Wildhaber says the court decides to accept Turkey's objection to their decision to send outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Öcalan to a grant chamber.

January 22- Two delegates from the Parliament Human Rights Investigation Commission leave for Copenhagen in order to investigate Turkish citizens' problems in place.

January 23- Turkey scraps a \$149 million deal with a French firm to launch a satellite in retaliation for French recognition of so-called Armenian genocide, Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoglu says.

January 28- Despite Turkey's reactions and warninsg the British government includes Armenians in the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony and create tension between Great Britain and Turkey.

January 24- Italian Interior Minister Enzo Bianco says that Turkey and Italy have overcome the crisis that stemmed from the leader of outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party Abdullah Öcalan's stay in Italy two years ago.

January 24- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem leaves for Switzerland to pay an official visit upon the invitation of the Swiss foreign minister.

January 30- France ignores Turkish criticisms and publishes a law in the state gazette stating that "Ottoman Turks committed genocide against Armenians in 1915".

January 30- The Turkish Armed Forces decide to cancel a \$200 million defence deal with a French company in further retaliation for the French president's endorsement of a law recognising the alleged killings of Armenians during the Ottoman Empire as genocide.

February 02- The European Commission calls on Turkey to tone down its reaction to France's decision to recognise the so-called Armenian genocide.

February 02- Gunther Verheugen, EU Commissioner responsible for enlargement, says Turkey may become an EU member without having to come up with a solution to the Cyprus dispute.

February 03- Turkey bars a French firm from this year's radar bids despite an EU warning to tone down its reaction to France's recognition of the alleged killings of Armenians as genocide.

February 06- The EU Commission's commissioner in charge of enlargement Gunther Verheugen says he believes the allegations of an Armenian genocide must be taken up by historians.

February 13- Armenian church Patriarch II. Mesroh Mutafyan visits Turkish leaders in Ankara and criticises France for passing a bill recognising the killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire as genocide and says that the only place to discuss the problems of Turkish Armenians was the Turkish Parliament.

February 13- MHP leader and Deputy Prime Minister Devlet Bahçeli says Turkey, which sees from European countries a stance not conducive to friendship and the morality of co-operation, would not hesitate from giving a proper response.

February 14- The European Parliament endorses the framework regulation agreement in Strasbourg which for Turkey is pivotal in terms of financial aid and co-operation.

February 16- Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt states that all EU candidate countries including Turkey would join the Laeken Summit in a bid to clarify his rather confusing remarks on Turkey's status.

February 16- Turkey and Norway develop similar views on the European Security and Defence Policy, diplomatic sources say after Foreign Minister İsmail Cem meets with his Norwegian counterpart Thorbjorn Jagland in Ankara.

February 19- Cem says reducing the sentence of the leader of the outlawed PKK, Abdullah Öcalan, is out of the question, even if it is a condition for joining the European Union.

February 23- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem meets with his Austrian counterpart Benita Ferrero-Waldner in Ankara to discuss Turkey's relations with the EU in addition to bilateral ties between the two countries.

February 25- French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's Socialist party calls on for a European-wide conference to help find a solution to the Kurdish problem.

March 06- Turkish newspapers fret that Turks who sacrifice sheep in public for a Muslim holiday violate EU health standards and set back the country's chances of joining the bloc.

March 14- The EU Representative to Ankara, Karen Fogg, says the current economic crisis will not affect the EU membership process of Turkey.

March 15- The British Parliament completes debates and approves the bill labelling the PKK and DHKP-C as terrorist groups.

March 16- EU Representative to Ankara Karen Fogg says that the EU does not aim to divide any candidate country, but rather to unite under the EU.

March 19- Cabinet approves a sweeping national program that promises new political, economic and legal reforms aimed at eventually gaining membership in the EU.

March 22- German Finance Minister Hans Eichel says his country backs Turkey's efforts to solve its economic crisis, but adds any bilateral German aid could only come once an effective rescue plan is in place.

March 22- Government urges Parliament to swiftly adopt drastic economic and political reforms, including abolishing freedom-curbing laws and reviewing the death penalty, to bring Turkey into the EU.

March 23- European Union finance ministers give strong backing to Turkey's efforts to reform its economy after the recent lira crisis and as the country gears up for future EU entry talks.

March 23- Yves Leforban, secretary of the European commission on the control of foot-and-mouth disease, says Turkey is a high-risk potential gateway for spreading foot-and-mouth disease to Europe.

March 26- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem officially presents the National Program of Action to the EU Commission, while the EU calls on Turkey to carry out more concrete reforms, particularly in the field of human rights.

March 28- The British House of Lords completes debate and approves a bill labelling the PKK and DHKP/C as terrorist groups.

April 02- President Sezer starts his Netherlands visit upon the invitation of Queen Beatrix and is accompanied by Foreign Minister İsmail Cem.

April 03- Sweden's Finance Minister Bosse Ringholm says his country considers discussions over economic programs of EU candidates a means to accelerate membership negotiations.

April 04- The Netherlands assures President Sezer it will urge NATO to give Turkey a wider role in peacekeeping in the Balkans.

April 04- Secretary general for the EU, Volkan Vural, says the reforms Turkey must make to start EU accession talks will cost 16 billion euros (\$14.5 billion).

April 05- Swedish investigators travel to the prison island of İmralı to interrogate Abdullah Öcalan about the possible PKK involvement in the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

April 06- German Defence Minister Rudolf Scharping urges Turkey to stop blocking the EU's proposed military rapid reaction force, which is intended to complement NATO.

April 11- Turkey and the Czech Republic express their will to further develop co-operation during Czech deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Jan Kavan's visit to Turkey.

April 17- German police say a bomb exploded in front of the Turkish consulate in the west German city of Dusseldorf.

April 18- Deputy Prime Minister Mesut Yılmaz says Turkey will have to change several articles of its constitution for EU membership, particularly the articles regarding sovereignty.

April 18- A Council of Europe committee on torture leaves for a second visit to Turkey to investigate the ongoing crisis in prisons which has left 13 people dead as result of hunger strikes.

April 19- Chief of General Staff Gen. Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu says a planned EU rapid reaction force would imperil "the solidarity and coherence" of NATO as it excludes some alliance members from decision-making bodies.

April 19- Deputy Prime Minister Mesut Yılmaz, who is responsible for EU affairs, says that Turkey should change its state structure according to universal norms if it really wants to be a member of the EU.

April 20- The Turkish Foreign Ministry summons Spain's Ambassador to Turkey Manuel de la Camera and conveys Turkey's unease over the Madrid Police Department's maltreatment of Turkish citizens who are in Madrid to watch the Real Madrid-Galatasaray UEFA Champions' League football match.

April 21- A group of demonstrators occupies the Stuttgart building of the Social Democrat Party (SDP) in order to protest prison conditions in Turkey.

April 24- The Cyprus problem constitutes a serious problem for the enlargement ,comments Gunther Verheugen, EU commissioner responsible for enlargement.

April 24- The Council of Europe calls on Turkey to speed up reforms of its jail system to prevent more people dying in a months-long hunger strike.

April 30- Mesut Yılmaz says Turkey aims to start full accession negotiations with the EU within the next three years.

May 01- Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the co-chairman of the EU-Turkish Joint Parliamentary Commission, meets with Deputy Prime Minister Yılmaz in a bid to end the hunger strikes in Turkish prisons.

May 02- Belgium says their EU term presidency, which will pass to it from Sweden on July 1, will be very important for candidate countries, opening the way for 12 candidates to full membership, but once again omitting Turkey.

May 04- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit states that EU membership for Turkey is not only a target but a right as well in a press meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar during his visit to Spain.

May 07- The European Union special envoy for the Middle East peace process, Miguel Moratinos arrives in Ankara to exchange views with Turkish officials on the latest developments in the Middle East.

May 10- The European Court of Human Rights delivers a stinging rebuke to Turkey, finding it guilty of widespread human rights abuses arising from its 1974 peace operation in Cyprus.

May 10- As a response to Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit's letter on April 6 concerning financial support for the economic reform measures underway in Turkey, Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson sends a letter and says his country's support for Turkey's efforts to deal with the problems would continue.

May 13- Turkish ambassador to Paris, Sönmez Köksal, returns to France ending a four-month old diplomatic row over a French law recognising the alleged killing of Armenians during the Ottoman Empire as genocide.

May 15- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem says that Turkey supports the improvement of EU-NATO relations, but adds that it would not change its policies regarding the European Security and Defence Policy.

May 15- NATO member Turkey refuses to lift its veto on a deal which would allow the EU to draw on alliance assets for its planned military rapid reaction force.

May 16- As the pressure on Turkey increases over the European Security and Defence Policy issue, diplomats in Ankara say that Turkey does not aim to hinder creation of the new European Union army.

May 17- Swedish Ambassador to Turkey Henrik Liljegren says that the EU and his country expect Turkey to be able to transform some of the priorities of its National Program into action before the Association Council meeting will be held on June 26.

May 18- A CASA CN-235 military cargo plane crashes during a test flight, killing two Spanish pilots, a Spanish technician and a Turkish technician.

May 18- European Council Parliamentarian Assembly Chairman Lord Russell-Johnston asks that Turkish officials be more flexible on the issues of Kurdish language and closing religious-based political parties.

May 19- Gunther Verheugen, EU Commissioner responsible for enlargement, says that the Cyprus dispute threatens the enlargement of the European Union.

May 21- The Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) urges the government to implement the most urgent issues such as political reforms, adoption the Copenhagen criteria and changes in the political parties and electoral laws in its democratisation report.

May 21- Prime Ministry Undersecretary for EU Affairs Volkan Vural says that Turkey will become an EU member within 10 years.

May 22- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem warns of "serious upheaval" if the EU accepts Cyprus as a member of the bloc.

May 24- Parliamentary parties agree on the outlines of constitutional reforms aimed at harmonising the country's national charter with EU membership criteria.

May 28- Greek Government Spokesman Dimitri Reppas asserts that Turkey is putting itself into dilemma by following strict policies over Greek Cypriots' EU membership.

May 28- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu indicates Turkey will keep its position over the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) issue adding that Turkey can accept it only if a satisfactory proposal comes from the EU.

May 29- Turkey's military says it will continue to use CASA light transport planes, despite three crashes this year that killed 41 people.

May 29- The National Security Council declares that full membership of the EU for the Greek Cypriots will both deepen the division of the island and create uncertainties for peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean.

May 29- Turkey will maintain its veto over EU use of NATO military resources unless it is guaranteed influence over how they are deployed, Foreign Minister İsmail Cem writes in the Financial Times.

May 29- German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer cautions Turkey not to block EU plans for its own defence force over the issue of automatic EU access to NATO's military assets.

May 30- The Turkish delegation returns from Budapest with "satisfaction" over the headway achieved regarding the ESDP discussions.

June 02- Economy Minister Kemal Derviş says that Turkey's process to EU membership has displayed a confusing panorama and says Turkey should not be isolated during this process.

June 07- Two groups of European Parliament delegations visit the F-type prisons in Kandıra and Sincan, after visiting Bayrampaşa Prison and the Keçiören Children's Prison.

June 08- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou said Greece will veto any deal between the EU and Turkey for the creation of an EU force if the agreement runs contrary to Greek interests.

June 10- Some 5,000 hard-line nationalists rallied to protest Turkey's moves to join the EU, calling the country's candidacy an act of treason.

June 11- The European Council announced it is satisfied with the developments recorded in its enhanced political dialogue with Turkey.

June 12- Belgian Flemish newspapers ran stories asserting that DHKP-C terrorist Fehriye Erdal was missing and could have been killed.

June 13- Ecevit said Turkey backed the ESDP but the EU should avoid discrimination against non-EU NATO members that may lead to new divisions in the European continent.

June 14- Turkey asked for information from the Belgian Government about terrorist Fehriye Erdal, who is one of the suspects of the Sabancı assassination.

June 14- Germany warned Turkey it could risk economic aid unless it helps the EU with plans for an EU rapid reaction force that would use NATO military facilities in Turkey.

June 15- The European Council warns Turkey to pay compensation to Greek Cypriot citizen Titiana Loizidou.

June 16- European Union leaders say Turkey must do more to clean up its human rights record before it could move closer to becoming a member of the EU.

June 17- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says Turkey will be closer to the EU if it is able to make constitutional changes on time.

June 21- Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel visits Ankara and warns Turkey that a court verdict to close down the Virtue Party (FP) could harm the country's efforts to join the EU.

June 21- Council of Europe Secretary General Walter Schwimmer asks both Turkey and Russia to sign the sixth protocol of the European Human Rights Convention which abolishes the death penalty in signatory countries.

June 25- The EU expresses concern over the closure of the FP, saying the ban underlines the need for Turkey to push through democratic reforms if it wants to make progress toward joining the EU.

June 26- Turkey's top business group the Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) calls for urgent reforms to meet the EU's membership criteria and ensure there will be no repeat of last week's court verdict banning the FP.

June 27- Turkey's efforts in the way of EU membership is evaluated as insufficient in a report prepared by Daniel Cohn Bendit, Co-chairman of the Turkish-EU Joint Parliamentary Commission.

June 27- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem warns EU countries about their Cyprus policies and says Turkey will show a strong reaction if the EU accepts the Greek Cypriot Administration's membership.

June 28- EU Commissioner responsible for enlargement Gunther Verheugen says he is hopeful that the two sides will reach a solution in the Cyprus dispute.

June 29- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe approves the bill defending the continuation of the monitoring of Turkey.

July 03- Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel visits Turkey officially after Belgium takes over the presidency of the EU, to discuss three main topics; the implementation of the national programme, Cyprus and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

July 03- The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) issues a report urging the authorities in Germany, Turkey, Croatia and Cyprus to take more action to combat persistent racism, anti-Semitism and intolerance of immigrants in their countries.

July 03- A new report for the British government says nearly 60,000 people would have their homes or land flooded by the proposed Ilisu dam project in south-east Turkey.

July 04- Belgian Ambassador to Turkey Jean Matthysen says that there will be no new initiatives on the ESDP issue apart from the British proposal.

July 06- Prime Ministry Undersecretary for EU Affairs Volkan Vural says that the EU should not exclude Turkey if it wants to be a global actor.

July 06- Recai Kutan, former leader of the defunct Virtue Party, meets with representatives of Western diplomatic missions in Ankara, in order to give a clear picture to diplomats on the plans for the formation of the new party.

July 10- Volkan Vural, the Undersecretary for EU Affairs, warns the EU that the Greek Cypriot administration's EU membership will make the Cyprus dispute more complicated.

July 10- Energy Minister Zeki Çakan meets with British Ambassador Sir David Logan.

July 10- Greek Foreign Ministry Spokesman Panayotis Beglitis reveals that the Greek government starts giving the "restricted Schengen" visa to Turkish citizens, which will allow them to make one-day visits to certain Greek islands located in the Aegean Sea, including Samos, Kos, Hios, Lesbos and Rhodes.

July 11- Italian Chief of Staff Gen. Rolando Moschini arrives in Turkey to meet his Turkish counterpart Gen. Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu and Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmaköğlu.

July 16- The EU warns it will not allow Turkey to permanently block EU plans to set up a defence force by vetoing access to NATO military facilities.

July 17- EU foreign ministers slam NATO member Turkey over its continued refusal to allow the creation of an EU military rapid reaction force that would have automatic access to NATO assets.

July 18- EU's current President and Belgium's Ambassador to Turkey, Jan Matthysen says that Turkey's continued insistence over the ESDP issue may only decelerate the process, but may affect Turkish-EU relations negatively.

July 23- The formation of the ESDP cannot be prevented, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer says. Asked to comment on the reservations of Turkey regarding the ESDP, Fischer says Turkey's vetoing of co-operation between the EU and NATO is not something logical.

July 27- French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine arrives in Ankara to discuss the creation of a European defence force with his Turkish counterpart İsmail Cem.

August 06- The killing of a Turkish asylum seeker in Scotland sparks racial tensions, with four protesters arrested in angry demonstrations over his death.

August 09- Turkey bans Turkish language broadcasts by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Germany's Deutsche Welle on its radio frequencies.

August 10- Mesut Yılmaz, the deputy prime minister says that unless Turkey limits the powers of the generals and lifts freedom-curbing laws it will miss its chances of entering the EU.

August 14- The Turkish Foreign Ministry states that there will be no stepping back over Turkey's position on the ESDP issue, saying that Turkey's national interest and security will continue to be a dominant factor on this issue.

August 25- Deputy Prime Minister Mesut Yılmaz says that Turkey should eradicate internal obstacles before the Progress Report that will be released by the EU in November.

August 27- Italy's coastguard says it has taken into custody more than 350 illegal immigrants who landed on the southern tip of the country in a fishing boat from Turkey.

September 11- European Parliament Turkish Reporter Alain Lamassoure discloses Foreign Relations Commission draft on Turkey, in which Europe's fading patience, concerns and hopes are expressed.

September 17- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit and his Spanish counterpart Jose Maria Aznar meet in Istanbul for the opening ceremony of a Spanish cultural centre, where they discuss the terrorist attack on the United States and possible ways to combat terrorism.

September 21- Hak TV, which was broadcasting anti-Turkish propaganda from Germany, is banned due to the demands of the Supreme Board of Radio and Television (RTUK) from German authorities of Northern Ren-Westfalia province.

September 28- A 60-year old fishing vessel carrying 236 migrants from Çesme to Italy sinks off the coast of Kaş. The 21-meter vessel has left Çesme on Sept. 23 carrying 146 Turkish migrants as well as Afghan, Iraqi, Ethiopian, Filipino, Iranian and Somalian refugees bringing the number up to 236.

October 04- Speaking at the 24th European Justice Ministers Conference in Moscow, Justice Minister Hikmet Sami Türk submits cautions and suggestions to his European counterparts.

October 08- German Ambassador Rudolf Schmidt calls the claims of clandestine activities of German foundations in Turkey "nonsense and improper," rejecting the conspiracy raised by a Democratic Left Party (DSP) deputy in Parliament.

October 08- A Turkish boat, called "Rafet Kaptan," laden with 400 migrants, docks at the Italian port of Crotona.

October 11- The coast guard detains 40 illegal Iraqi Kurd immigrants and arrests Eric Bernard (38), a French national and two Turks who allegedly smuggled them to a port near Athens, the merchant marine ministry said Thursday.

October 12- EU president Belgian Defence Minister Andre Flahaut states that the intensive contacts with Turkey on the ESDP continue at full speed.

October 17- British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw arrives in Turkey for talks on the U.S.-British military campaign in Afghanistan.

October 17- Estonian Foreign Minister Toomas Hendrik Ilves and Foreign Minister Ismail Cem sign a Turkish-Estonian air transportation deal in Ankara.

October 18- Turkey conveys a file, including information about the illegal activities of fundamentalist organisations based in Europe to the EU countries.

October 19- The Supreme Radio and Television Board (RTUK) orders BBC Turkish and Deutsche Welle to stop broadcasting in Turkey within 30 days.

October 19- Smugglers dump a boatload of some 270 illegal migrants bound for Italy on the Turkey's Aegean coast.

October 23- The EU welcomes Turkey's approval of constitutional reforms, but urges Ankara to show more flexibility over Cyprus.

October 23- Romano Prodi, head of the EU Commission, says there will be no discrimination against Turkey concerning the participation at the European Platform, which is expected to be a ground for a discussion on the future of the EU.

October 24- Ankara sends a warning to the EU that any step to exclude Turkey from European integration will be a step towards landing the world in a confrontation of civilisations.

October 25- The European Parliament calls on Turkey to ban the death penalty as part of constitutional reforms aimed at bolstering its campaign to join the EU.

October 25- Cyprus will be among the first candidates to join the EU, Romani Prodi, the president of the EU Commission says.

October 26- Romano Prodi expresses regret that Turkish Cypriots spurn a UN proposal for peace talks on the island.

October 26- Having an almost 10-hour long talk in Ankara's State Guest House, senior Turkish, British and U.S. officials reportedly fail to narrow down their differences over the level of Turkish participation in the ESDP.

October 30- Germany celebrates an agreement signed 40 years ago with Turkey inviting Turkish workers to help rebuild its post-war economy, but admits more must be done to improve their integration.

October 31- Ecevit accuses the EU of not acting strongly enough against terrorists plotting attacks on Turkey.

November 03- Deputy Premier Devlet Bahçeli says Turkey will not agree to any compromise on Cyprus, even if the decision would come at a "cost" to its aspirations to join the EU.

November 04- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says Turkey could "annex" the break away Turkish Cypriot state if the island's internationally recognised Greek Cypriot government becomes a member of the EU.

November 04- Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit receive a delegation formed by the Board of Executives of the International Crisis Group (ICG) led by former Finnish President Martti Ahtisari.

November 11- Greece cannot approve any future EU expansion if it does not include Greek Cyprus, Foreign Minister George Papandreou is quoted as saying.

November 12- The EU Commission's Annual Progress Report on Turkey states that Turkey has a long way to go for membership. Turkey's demand to start the screening process, which means opening a real perspective for full membership, is responded by a "deep analytical scrutiny," an unprecedented concept created exclusively for Turkey.

November 12- Nihat Akyol, Turkey's permanent representative to the EU says that the annual Progress Report from the EU Commission included some evaluations on Turkey, which are not being shared by Ankara.

November 12- British engineering group Balfour Beatty Plc says it is pulling out of the Ilisu dam project in Turkey, delighting opponents of the scheme who say it will displace local communities and harm the environment.

November 16- Parliamentary Speaker Ömer İzgi arrives in Stockholm to attend the EU Parliament Speakers Conference, to be held between Nov. 16-18.

November 16- French President Jacques Chirac presents Turkish top businessmen Sakıp Sabancı with the "Legion d'Honneur" medal at a ceremony in Elysee Palace.

November 19- The chief of the Royal Air Force (RAF) Air Chief Marshal Peter Squire arrives as the official guest of his Turkish counterpart Air Chief Marshal Cumhur Asparuk.

November 26- The fourth round of the meetings between Turkey, Britain and the United States is held in Ankara, with the participation of top officials from the three states, to look for ways to remove the deadlock over the rifts between Turkey and the EU over the ESDP.

November 27- A member of the European Parliament, Daniel Cohn-Bendit says Turkey must abandon its opposition to the reunification of Cyprus and the use of NATO capabilities by a new EU army if it wants to join the EU.

November 28- Turkey says European officials agree to further talks on plans for a EU rapid-reaction force after failing to resolve a deadlock.

November 28- Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt pays a short and unexpected visit to Ankara.

November 30- Dutch Foreign Minister Jozias van Aartsen arrives in Turkey for a short stop and says he hopes Turkey and the EU will resolve a dispute over a proposed European defence force before the bloc's summit in mid-December.

December 01- Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt calls on Turkey to stop creating obstacles to EU plans to set up a common defence force.

December 02- A public opinion poll reveals that Turks believe that the Cyprus issue is more important than Turkey's full membership to the EU.

December 02- Government and military officials gather for a two hour meeting. After the meeting the Turkish government signals that it is ready to drop its objection to the creation of a new EU defense force.

December 04- Belgian Minister responsible for European affairs Annemie Neyts arrives in Ankara where she says that Belgium may suggest the European Council lift the candidacy of Turkey to a higher level.

December 10- EU foreign ministers meet in Brussels and fail to resolve Greek concerns over an agreement that would allow a planned EU military force access to NATO assets.

December 12- Turkey should get equal status with other candidate countries at a Convention on the Future of the European Union to be established by an EU summit, host Belgium says.

December 13- The so-called Kurdistan National Congress convenes in Brussels despite harsh reactions and criticism from Turkey to Belgium which allow separatist/terrorist organisations to organise such a congress on its soil.

December 13- The European Court of Human Rights decides to consider an appeal application against an earlier verdict on the Welfare Party (RP), which was banned by the Constitutional court.

December 14- Accompanied by Foreign Minister İsmail Cem and senior bureaucrats, Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit leaves for Laeken to take part in a special session of the EU summit.

December 18- As the Laeken summit ends with a green light concerning the upgrading of the Turkish candidacy, the incoming EU president Spain gives encouraging remarks to Ankara.

December 19- Interior Minister Rüştü Kazım Yücelen flies to Germany to secure assurances that Metin Kaplan won't be executed if extradited from Germany, a condition German officials insist on.

December 20- Yücelen says Turkey and Germany agree to sign a co-operation agreement on security issues.

December 22- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says he expects Greece to agree soon to a planned European rapid reaction force.

December 24- Foreign Minister Cem states that Turkey put the clarification of a date for the launching of accession talks as a target for the end 2002, at the end of the Danish presidency of the EU.

December 27- Turkey will concentrate in 2002 on completing reforms in laws and adapting to EU norms, Motherland Party (ANAP) leader Deputy Prime Minister Yılmaz says.

IV. USA & NATO

January 03- Turkey screens soldiers who have served in Kosovo following reports of possible links between NATO's use of depleted uranium ammunition in the Balkans and cancer among allied troops.

January 04- The General Staff announces that only two Turkish military experts were exposed to radiation from depleted uranium ammunition in the Balkans and that they were not facing any health dangers.

January 07- President Clinton's special envoy for Caspian basin energy resources, Elizabeth Jones, indicates that President-elect George Bush, too, supports the current US policy on Bakü-Ceyhan.

January 09- Outgoing the US Secretary of Defence William Cohen says non-EU member countries, including Turkey should definitely be included within the decision-making mechanism of the proposed defence force of the EU.

January 09- Alfred Moses, the special US presidential envoy on Cyprus arrives as part of a fresh international effort for the resumption of stalled talks for the reunification of the island.

January 10- Deputy chairman of the Turkish Atomic Energy Council Dr. Erdener Birol announces that preliminary analysis of water samples provided by the General Staff have not shown levels of radiation to be higher than normal background radiation in view of the depleted uranium scare among troops serving in the Balkans.

January 11- US Presidential Emissary Moses states that Washington wanted a united Cyprus to enter the EU.

January 12- As the day of January 20 approaches on which President-elect George Bush will be sworn in as the 43rd president of the US, Clinton administration experts say they do not expect a major policy change regarding Turkey.

January 12- Turkey says two of its soldiers who served as NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo had been affected by exposure to depleted uranium munitions used there during the Balkans conflict.

January 12- Turkish Armed Forces announces that an expert team will be sent to Kosova on Jan. 12-16 to research the so-called "Balkan Syndrome."

January 14- "Reliant Mermaid-3", the third joint search and rescue naval manoeuvre with Israel and the US begins in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

January 18- US Secretary of State-designate and former Gulf War hero Colin Powell promises to support Turkey throughout his term in office and to work on a solution over the European Army problem plaguing Turkey and the EU.

January 25- Mourad Topalian, a man suspected of supplying explosives, used to bomb the Turkish mission to the United Nations in 1980, is sentenced to a maximum three years in prison for storing explosives.

February 02- The Greek press reports that both the US and Turkey are pressuring Greece to ban the outlawed Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) terrorist organisation in Greece.

February 03- Reuters reports that new US President George Bush says in a letter to Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit that he sees "obstacles" in his country's future ties with Ankara, but predicts they would be overcome. Later official Turkish sources deny the wording of "obstacles" in the letter and say it was a translation error and that Bush talked about mutual "challenges" facing the two countries.

February 08- Croatian President Stipe Mesic arrives in Ankara and asks for Turkey's support for his countries' NATO membership during his two-day visit to Turkey.

February 09- Chevron company informs the Turkish government that it wants to join a group of companies planning to build a new oil pipeline from the Caspian Sea to the Turkish Mediterranean coast.

February 17- Turkey, which is forging closer ties with neighbouring Iraq, says it hopes US-led aerial attacks on Baghdad would not be repeated.

February 17- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit criticises NATO-ally Washington for not informing Turkey beforehand over a US-British aerial attack on Iraq.

February 23- President George Bush speaks with Prime Minister Ecevit by telephone and urges him to cooperate with the IMF and to continue with economic reforms.

February 23- US warplanes take off from Incirlik Air Base in Turkey and once again bomb northern Iraq.

February 26- US State Department's annual report on human rights in Turkey states that despite many existing and enduring problems, there is progress in human rights compared to previous years.

February 27- Foreign Minister Cem asks new US administration to soften sanctions against Iraq during his first meeting with Secretary of State Colin Powell.

February 28- The US Secretary of State Colin Powell reportedly asks Turkish counterpart İsmail Cem to follow Syria's example and take steps to prevent violations of UN sanctions against Iraq in their bilateral meeting.

March 02- US Assistant Secretary of State Edward Walker meets Turkish Foreign Minister İsmail Cem on a tour of Middle East capitals aiming at bolstering support for the Bush administration's policy towards Iraq.

March 03- The US State Department says Turkey's financial crisis is not splitting the Bush administration on whether it may need more financial help from the International Monetary Fund.

March 04- Facing its first financial crisis in Turkey, the Bush administration is not rushing to embrace the non-interventionist positions espoused in the past by key members of its economic team.

March 04- A US report on illicit drug trafficking says Turkey has been the basic transit route for drugs coming from Southeast Asia and going to Europe.

March 04- An ANAR poll shows that the majority of Turks are against the recent bombing of Iraq by American and British planes.

March 07- Kemal Derviş, new economy minister flies to Washington to discuss the country's latest financial crisis with US officials and to complete the formalities of his resignation from the World bank.

March 17- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit accuses the US and Europe of failing to act decisively to help his country out of financial crisis.

March 23- California's state Senate unanimously approves a resolution designating April 24 as California Day of Remembrance for the so-called Armenian Genocide.

March 23- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit sends letters to US President George Bush, NATO Secretary-General George Robertson and the leaders of Balkan countries, conveying Turkey's concerns over the growing tension in Macedonia.

March 24- President George Bush calls for a quick resumption of a stalled UN effort to resolve the Cyprus problem .

March 26- Economy Minister Kemal Derviş says in Washington that if Turkey doesn't get international financial help "in a timely fashion" its economic crisis may deepen.

March 28- Foreign Minister Cem urges the US to resume its active role in Middle East peacemaking before violence between Israel and the Palestinians gets worse.

March 29- Turkey asks for US support for lifting the UN ban on Turkey's tenders related to Iraq.

March 30- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem meets with US President George Bush's National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice to discuss topics ranging from the Middle East to the Balkans and Caucasus to the economic crisis in Turkey.

April 03- US Assistant Secretary of State responsible for cultural and educational affairs Helena Finn says the economic crisis in Turkey is being handled with "great seriousness at the highest level."

April 04- Former US President George Bush arrives in Turkey and says the US will help Turkey come out of the economic crisis.

April 04- The Netherlands assures President Sezer it will urge NATO to give Turkey a wider role in peacekeeping in the Balkans.

April 06- German Defence Minister Rudolf Scharping urges Turkey to stop blocking the EU's proposed military rapid reaction force, which is intended to complement NATO.

April 09- The Maryland Senate approves a resolution condemning the alleged massacre of more than a million Armenians during World War I by

the Ottoman Empire, stepping into the international dispute over the so-called "Armenian Genocide."

April 10- US congressmen meet with Patriarch Bartholomew I and urge the reopening of a Greek Orthodox theological school closed down decades ago by Turkish authorities.

April 13- The US State Department's advisor on Caspian Basin energy policies Ambassador Elizabeth Jones says the Bush Administration gives full support to the Bakü-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline bid.

April 15- The US embassy in Ankara says Turkey's new economic program is an important step in stabilising the country's economy.

April 18- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit telephones President George W. Bush to urge swift financial support to help Turkey out of its economic crisis.

April 18- Cavit Çağlar, who is wanted for allegedly swindling a bank out of several million dollars, is arrested at Kennedy International Airport, the FBI says.

April 18- The Justice Ministry lays the groundwork to begin the extradition process of former State minister Cavit Çağlar from the US.

April 19- As Ankara is preparing to welcome US Assistant Secretary of State Edward Walker, official sources emphasise that Turkey will not change its main policy priorities on Iraq.

April 19- Chief of General Staff Gen. Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu says a planned EU rapid reaction force would imperil "the solidarity and coherence" of NATO as it excludes some alliance members from decision-making bodies.

April 19- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says he hopes US President George Bush's pledges of support for Turkey will help the country win the foreign aid it needs to end a damaging financial crisis.

April 19- The Armenian lobby in the US starts a letter-writing campaign to Turkish leaders, calling on them to recognise the so-called Armenian genocide.

April 20- During a short visit to Turkey, US Assistant Secretary of State Edward Walker discusses sanctions against Iraq with Turkish Foreign Ministry officials.

April 20- Ford Motor Co. opens a \$650 million plant in Turkey that will produce light commercial vehicles for the Turkish market and for export.

April 20- American Turks start a letter-writing campaign to US President George Bush asking him not to refer to events in 1915 as "genocide."

April 23- Police detain 16 Greenpeace activists who stage a protest outside of the US Embassy and climb on a nearby building to unfurl a huge banner that calls US President George W. Bush a "climate killer."

April 28- Cavit Caglar, a former government minister wanted for allegedly swindling a bank out of \$7.4 million, returns to Turkey following his extradition from the US.

May 06- During the visit of a Turkish trade delegation to this country, Iraq warns its neighboring countries not to co-operate with the US-sponsored "smart sanctions" -- a tighter arms embargo coupled with relaxed controls on imports of civilian goods -- or they would lose trade with Baghdad.

May 09- US President George W. Bush, in a letter to Prime Minister Ecevit, urges Turkey to justify the confidence of international lenders by pushing forward with privatisation and bank sector reforms.

May 09- The US announces that it is closely following the news about resumption of Turkey's train service to Iraq and says it has certain concerns that Iraq may violate the oil-for-food program strictly controlled by the United Nations.

May 11- As the US wants to have as many countries as possible participate in the missile defence system, Ankara says concerns about the project displayed by the Russians and Chinese should be heeded.

May 14- Turkey takes over the command of a NATO anti-mining operation in a ceremony boycotted by Greece's navy chief because of a row over the military status of an Aegean island.

May 15- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem says that Turkey supports the improvement of EU-NATO relations but adds that it would not change its policies regarding the ESDP.

May 15- NATO member Turkey refuses to lift its veto on a deal which would allow the EU to draw on alliance assets for its planned military rapid reaction force.

May 17- US Secretary of State Colin Powell says Turkey is great friend and an ally of the US and that he is proud of his country's relations with Turkey.

May 23- Two leading diplomats from the US, Richard Holbrooke and Richard Perle, say Turkey is correct to be concerned with ESDP issues.

May 27- Turkey comes under renewed pressure from NATO allies to drop its opposition to lending alliance hardware to the EU.

May 29- Turkey will maintain its veto over EU use of NATO military resources unless it is guaranteed influence over how they are deployed, Foreign Minister İsmail Cem writes in the Financial Times.

May 29- German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer cautions Turkey not to block European Union plans for its own defence force over the issue of automatic EU access to NATO's military assets.

June 04- US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld meets Turkish leaders to discuss US policy towards Iraq and thanks the Turks for providing bases for American and British warplanes policing a "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq.

June 07- US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher declares that Turkey and the US are in close co-operation concerning Iraqi affairs.

June 08- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem said Turkey will open a second border crossing with sIraq, a sign of improving relations viewed with some concern by the US.

June 08- Amnesty International US section named former Turkish Human Rights Association Chairman Akin Birdal among the Heroes of the Year 2000.

June 11- Turkey and Iraq began talks focused on a US-British proposal to overhaul the 11-year-old sanctions against Baghdad.

June 11- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz asked Turkey not to support the new US plan for new UN sanctions posed against Iraq called "smart sanctions."

June 11- More than 4,000 troops from 11 countries including Turkey and the US launched military exercises in western Georgia under NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

June 12- Ecevit flew to Brussels to attend the NATO Head of Government and States' summit.

June 13- Ecevit said Turkey backed the ESDP but the EU should avoid discrimination against non-EU NATO members that may lead to new divisions in the European continent.

June 13- Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Kasım Cömert Tokayev told a US envoy that his country was in favour of a Washington-backed Bakü-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline route from the oil-rich Caspian Sea region to Turkey, but called for a more accurate analysis of the project's feasibility and cost.

June 13- Some 150 Americans of Armenian origin visited the eastern city of Kars to perform a ceremony at the Ani ruins.

June 14- Germany warned Turkey it could risk economic aid unless it helps the EU with plans for an EU rapid reaction force that would use NATO military facilities in Turkey.

June 16- The Turkish General Staff states that it is out of the question that depleted uranium weapons will be used during NATO maneuvers in Turkey's central city of Konya on June 18-19.

June 20- The US, Israel and Turkey reach an agreement on the deployment of a missile defence system in Turkey.

June 21- President Sezer, during his visit to Romania, pledges Turkey's support for Romania's efforts to join NATO when the alliance decides to take in new members at a summit next year.

June 22- The Constitutional Court decides to close down main opposition Virtue Party (FP) and bans two of its deputies on charges of being the centre of fundamentalist activity. The US says it regrets the court's decision to ban the FP.

June 22- Military personnel are placed on heightened security alert at Incirlik airbase, which is used by US and British planes to patrol northern Iraq, a US military spokesman says.

June 25- Turkish Parliament extends for six months the mandate for flights by US and British warplanes patrolling the northern Iraq.

June 26- Iraq condemns Turkey for extending the mandate for flights by US and British warplanes patrolling a no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

June 26- The US State Department's Cyprus co-ordinator, Ambassador Tom Weston, says the US and Turkey may face certain difficulties in their relations if the deadlock continues in the Cyprus dispute.

June 28- Turkey rejoins the American-led United Nations Command based in South Korea, command officials say.

July 04- US Embassy officials meet the boycotting students, fearing an expansion of the anti-McDonald's campaign at Middle East Technical University.

July 11- US President George W. Bush says he gives strong support to Turkey's efforts to fulfil reforms with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

July 16- The European Union warns it will not allow Turkey to permanently block EU plans to set up a defence force by vetoing access to NATO military facilities.

July 17- EU foreign ministers slam NATO member Turkey over its continued refusal to allow the creation of an EU military rapid reaction force that would have automatic access to NATO assets.

July 18- A US F-16 fighter jet crashes in south-eastern Turkey as it heads towards Northern Iraq to patrol a no-fly zone.

July 19- US President George W. Bush says that his country is closely following economic developments in Turkey.

July 23- The formation of the ESDP cannot be prevented, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer says. Asked to comment on the reservations of Turkey regarding the ESDP, Fischer says Turkey's vetoing of co-operation between the EU and NATO is not something logical.

August 06- Turkish military police detain 11 environmental activists outside an air base in southern Turkey for protesting against US plans to develop a missile defence shield, Greenpeace says.

August 19- A US military aircraft patrolling northern Iraq crossed into Syrian airspace by accident this week, a US spokesman at Incirlik airbase discloses.

August 27- Turkey and the US reportedly agree to launch a joint initiative to promote F-16s to central European countries, including Hungary, Austria and Poland, in order to meet their needs.

August 27- US Under-secretary of State Elizabeth Jones says her country supports reforms made by the Azerbaijani government and its co-operation with Turkey in the Azerbaijani capital of Bakü.

September 02- The New York Times covers Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk's recently translated novel "My Name Is Red" in its Book Supplement's cover page.

September 10- A Turkish court orders Aydoğın Fuat, a Muslim preacher who is a US citizen, to remain in jail pending trial on charges of inciting religious hatred by calling for an Islamic regime in secular Turkey. Fuat also faces charges of establishing an illegal religious congregation and wearing banned clerical clothing.

September 11- The US is shocked by the greatest terrorist attack in history, in which four planes are hijacked, two crashed into the World Trade Centre in New York, one into the Pentagon.

September 11- US forces, deployed in Incirlik base, is placed on high alert.

September 11- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit send messages to US President George W. Bush offering their support after plane attacks on major buildings in the US.

September 12- Istanbul's stock market remains closed, amid fears of the impact of terrorist attacks in the US on world markets and Turkey's crisis-ridden economy.

September 13- The terrorist attacks which took place on Sept. 11, in the US leads flags to be lowered half mast in Turkey, in memory of the people that lost their lives in the inhumane attacks.

September 13- Regarding the decision taken by the NATO Council to activate Article 5 in connection with terrorist attacks in US, Turkey declares readiness to make contributions to a joint NATO action.

September 14- Turkey places its armed forces on high alert as it prepares for a possible US response to the terrorist attacks on American cities.

September 19- US authorities file the first criminal charges in their investigation into the terrorist attacks on the US, after finding three men with false immigration papers and notes on the American Incirlik base in Turkey and airport diagrams.

September 21- US President George W. Bush calls President Ahmet Necdet Sezer, stating that the US administration wants an active international fight against terrorism and in such a struggle, they want to see Turkey near them, adding that Turkey's support is very important for them.

September 22- Turkey agrees to allow US Air Force transport aircraft to use its airspace and airports for a possible response to the recent terrorist attacks against the US. Turkey also expresses willingness to share intelligence on Afghanistan with the US.

September 24- The Faith Summit, which was meant to be held between Oct. 4 and 7, is postponed due to the atmosphere created after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in the US.

September 25- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem leaves for Washington upon the invitation of US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

September 27- Defence Ministers of NATO member countries meet for the first time after the terrorist attacks in the US on Sept. 11, but there is no concrete result in spite of the expectation that Washington would deliver evidence that would point to Osama bin Laden as the mastermind behind the attacks.

September 27- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem, who is on a visit to the US, meets with US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary of State Marc Grossman.

September 27- The recently appointed Aegean Army Commander Gen. Hurşit Tolon expresses the need for concrete evidence that the attack on the US was carried out from abroad in order to enact NATO's Article 5.

September 27- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer speaks to the Azeri, Pakistani and Kirghiz presidents to assess the latest developments concerning the possible US attack on Afghanistan to get Osama bin Laden, the head suspect of the terrorist act in the US.

September 28- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem meets US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, US Vice President Dick Cheney, US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Donald Rumsfeld, and the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

September 28- A bomb explodes in McDonald's in Beyoğlu, İstanbul, injuring three, and causing massive material damage.

September 30- US prosecutors decides to retry a portion of their case against Harry Sassounian, who murdered Kemal Arıkan, a 54 year-old Turkish diplomat in 1982 in an effort to ensure he never gets out of prison.

October 02- Curt Weldon, the head of an 11-member congressional delegation in Ankara, describes Turkey as the "shining crown jewel" in an unstable region and said Washington had not always done enough to support such a close ally.

October 02- Military Electronics Industry (Aselsan) and the Defence Industry Under-secretariat sign protocol for the production of 148 stinger missiles within six years. The missile models are called 'Atılgan', 'Zıpkın' and 'Bora'.

October 03- Western warplanes attack two anti-aircraft artillery sites in southern Iraq on Wednesday, the third such strike in six days, a US military spokesman in the region says.

October 03- The Republican Congressman Curt Weldon tells the US press of his proposal to write-off a \$5 million portion of Turkey's military debts, the idea he adopted during his visit to Turkey with 10 other Congress members.

October 07- US and British forces start bombing Afghanistan. Turkish military and civilian leaders hold urgent meeting to discuss these developments.

October 07- Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze expresses his country's willingness to improve relations with Turkey and NATO, while criticising Russia for directing operations against Chechnya using Georgian territory.

October 08- Around 20 C-5 transport aircraft of the US Air Force make brief stops at the İncirlik base after targets in Afghanistan are hit.

October 08- Anti-war demonstrations are held in various districts of İstanbul.

October 08- US Vice President Dick Cheney calls President Ahmet Necdet Sezer to inform him about the operation against Afghanistan and to thank Turkey for its support as part of NATO.

October 09- A group from the Human Rights Association Istanbul Branch hold a sit-in to protest the military operation against Afghanistan.

October 10- Turkish Parliament grants full war powers to the government, empowering it to dispatch troops abroad or host foreign troops on Turkish territory, and to allow the use of Turkish territory, airspace and territorial waters.

October 10- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer states that having permission to send Turkish troops abroad does not necessarily mean they would be sent.

October 12- Opposition Saadet Party decides to appeal to the Constitutional Court to overturn a decision allowing the government to send Turkish troops abroad and have foreign troops stationed here; needs 110 signatures.

October 12- Police use tear gas to disperse some 2,000 people chanting anti-American slogans to protest US strikes against Afghanistan following traditional Muslim Friday prayers in Istanbul. About 60 protesters are detained.

October 14- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says NATO member Turkey, which backs the US in its war on terrorism, opposes any possible US-led military action against neighboring Iraq.

October 14- About 200 protesters rally outside Incirlik air base chanting slogans against the US strikes on Afghanistan and demanding the closure of the base. In Istanbul, riot police disperse some 300 demonstrators protesting US military strikes against Afghanistan.

October 16- US ambassador to Turkey Ambassador Robert Pearson visits the Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee and briefs them on the war against terrorism and on developments within the region. Pearson offers assurances that there is no question of a separate state being formed in northern Iraq.

October 18- Prime Minister Ecevit says that there is not a clash between the East and the West or between Christianity and Islam, but there is a clash of cultures within the Islamic world.

October 18- Turkey will play an important political role in rebuilding Afghanistan if the US-British military campaign topples its ruling Taliban regime, Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw says in Ankara.

October 18- Red Cross and Red Crescent delegations from 13 Central Asian and Middle Eastern countries meet in Ankara to co-ordinate aid efforts to civilians displaced by US air strikes in Afghanistan.

October 19- American State Department spokesman Phil Reeker hosts a press conference for foreign press representatives in Washington at which he says they have full belief that Turkey will continue to play an important role in the international coalition formed to fight terrorism.

October 19- Around 700 worshippers protests the US-led bombing of Afghanistan after the Friday prayers.

October 21- National Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmaköglü states that the Turkish soldiers sentierlierto Atlanta to coordinate efforts against terrorism have begun work, and adds, "There has been no request from the US or from any other country for troops as far as I know."

October 22- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem visits Afghanistan's neighbour Turkmenistan on the second leg of a trip aimed at forging closer links between ex-Soviet states and NATO in the campaign against Kabul.

October 23- Thomas Weston, special Cyprus co-ordinator of the US Department of State meets with Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Uğur Ziyal in Ankara.

October 25- A Cyprus settlement remains a high priority for the US, Washington's special envoy to the island, Thomas Weston says.

October 26- Having an almost 10-hour long talk in Ankara's State Guest House, senior Turkish, British and US officials reportedly fail to narrow down their differences over the level of Turkish participation in the ESDP.

October 28- US President George W. Bush thanks Turkey for its support to the US-led anti-terror campaign and says the country had sided with "democracy and freedom."

October 31- The US asks Turkey to deploy a force in Afghanistan to train the opposition Northern Alliance.

November 01- Turkey says it will deploy a 90-person special forces troop to Afghanistan, becoming the first Muslim country to join in the US-led attacks against Kabul's Taliban rulers and Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US.

November 03- Police detain five suspected Islamic militants trying to travel to Afghanistan to join a "jihad," or holy war, against the US.

November 08- The US Ambassador to Ankara Mark Pearson says the US needs Turkey's help on the US-led operation on Afghanistan in a meeting of the Turkish-American Business Council held in the Aegean Region Free Zone.

November 08- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit denies there is any US pressure to send troops to Afghanistan.

November 09- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem arrives in New York to attend the 56th General Assembly meetings of the United Nations, parallel to a series of bilateral talks.

November 11- A newspaper owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday warns Turkey that it would be making "a grave mistake" if it participated in any U.S.-led attack against Iraq.

November 16- Issuing a written statement, the U.S. Embassy in Ankara denies reports claiming that the United States declare Turkey the riskiest country.

November 22- Police detain 10 people, protesting against the war in Afghanistan, outside the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul.

November 28- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu hints that Turkey may drop its opposition to the spread of the U.S.-led anti-terror campaign to neighboring Iraq.

November 29- U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell downplays talk of possible U.S. action against Iraq that moves markets in Turkey.

November 30- Turkish Ambassador to Washington Faruk Loğoğlu says that 47 Turks detained for visa violations in the United States since Sept. 11 are innocent of any involvement in terrorism.

December 01- Iraq rejects claims that its outgoing ambassador to Turkey met with Osama bin Laden, labeling such reports as "American-Zionist propaganda" against Arab and Islamic countries.

December 03- Turkish, Israeli and U.S ships and planes begin exercises off Turkey's Mediterranean coast -- their fourth joint naval maneuvers since 1998.

December 04- U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell arrives in Ankara to rally support for the U.S.-led counter-terrorism alliance after the campaign in Afghanistan.

December 05- U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell assures the Turkish leaders that President George W. Bush did not take a decision concerning an operation against Iraq.

December 14- A U.S. delegation, headed by Ryan Crocker, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. State Department visits Ankara to discuss the situation in Iraq after a trip to northern Iraq.

December 25- Parliament extends for six months the mandate allowing U.S. and British warplanes to patrol the no-fly zone in northern Iraq as fears mount that Washington could next target Iraq in its war on terrorism.

December 25- Chief of General Staff Gen. Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu strongly opposes suggestions that Iraq should be the next target for the U.S., fearing that this could lead to the division of Iraq and the formation of a Kurdish state at Turkey's borders.

December 27- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says the Washington promises to discuss with Ankara any steps it might consider taking against Iraq in its "war on terror."

V. FORMER USSR STATES

January 04- Eastern Turkish industrialists say they expect two border gates with Armenia and Iran will open up in 2001.

January 10- Amid the French Parliament's moves to recognise the so-called Armenian genocide, Ankara signals that it wants to have diplomatic contact with Armenia, which does not mean creating full diplomatic relations with Yerevan.

January 15- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem on an official visit to Pakistan calls for an end to Afghanistan's bitter civil war and the establishment of a broad-based government.

January 29- Turkey and Georgia once again reiterate that they are committed to good relations in political, economic and military fields for the sake of regional stability during Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze's official two-day visit to Ankara.

January 30- Turkey signs an agreement with Georgia to clear antipersonnel mines from their heavily mined common border and ban the future use of such land mines on their frontier.

January 31- Armenia's President Robert Kocharian denies Turkish claims that he has been orchestrating the "Armenian genocide bill" bonanza against Turkey in the West. He says: "Armenia has not been engaged in solving such problems since Soviet Union times -- that is for 70 years. The genocide claims have been supported and nurtured by the Armenian Diaspora".

February 09- Chevron company informs the Turkish government that it wants to join a group of companies planning to build a new oil pipeline from the Caspian Sea to the Turkish Mediterranean coast.

February 12- Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rusaylo arrives in Ankara to hold a meeting with his Turkish counterpart Sadettin Tanttan over security issues.

February 14- Duma, the lower house of the Russian Parliament, withdraws the draft resolution on the so-called Armenian genocide.

February 17- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem invites Armenia and Azerbaijan to a trilateral meeting to find a solution to their territorial dispute in Nagorno-Karabakh -- a step by Turkey to improve relations with rival Armenia.

February 18- Deputy Prime Minister Devlet Bahçeli arrives in Askabat, the capital of Turkmenistan.

February 20- The Armenian Foreign Ministry gives the cold shoulder to the Turkish foreign minister's proposal to hold a meeting with Armenia and Azerbaijan on resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by saying that Turkey cannot be a mediator in the Azeri-Armenian conflict.

February 22- Georgia's national currency loses about 4 percent of its value in a slide that President Eduard Shevardnadze blames in part on an economic crisis in neighboring Turkey.

March 02- Kazakhstan signs a memo indicating possible interest in shipping oil via the Bakü-Ceyhan pipeline, raising prospects that the project could be profitable.

March 12- Turkey and Azerbaijan agree on the projects for Shah Deniz natural gas to be exported to Turkish markets, Bakü-Ceyhan pipeline project and political problems with Armenia, particularly on the Nagorno-Karabagh occupation and the Armenian genocide allegations.

March 15- Four Chechens wielding knives force a Tupolev-154 airliner belonging to a Russian carrier to divert to Medina, Saudi Arabia just 30 minutes after it left Istanbul Atatürk International Airport.

March 15- Russian Ambassador to Turkey Alexander Lebedev states that the Kars Agreement, which was signed by Soviet Russia and Turkey in 1921 demarcating the border between Soviet Union and Turkey, could not be challenged.

March 16- Azeri President Haydar Aliyev states that all Armenian genocide allegations are fabricated and they do not have the slightest connection with reality.

March 25- Parliament Speaker Ömer İzgi flies to Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent, which is his first stop in a 13-day tour of the Central Asian Turkic countries; Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan.

March 26- Russian and Kazakh officials begin pumping crude oil down the first major pipeline to be built in the resource-rich Caspian Sea region in a decade, once again putting the Turkish Straits on the headlines. The oil will be shipped through the Turkish Straits.

March 28- State Minister Ramazan Mirzaoğlu, in charge of maritime affairs, warns oil tankers carrying Kazakh oil through Turkey's busy Bosphorus and Dardanelles waterways to world markets could delay and imperil the passage of other vessels through the straits.

April 02- Six Black Sea countries -- Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Georgia -- sign the Black Sea Naval Co-operation Task Group (Blackseafor) agreement, envisaging co-operation in a joint naval force that will be available for humanitarian and environmental operations.

April 22- Armed men hold guests and staff hostage in a luxury İstanbul hotel after forcing their way in with guns firing in a protest against Russian military action in Chechnya.

April 23- After hours holed up in a luxury hotel, pro-Chechen gunmen surrender to police and release 120 guests and staff members held hostage.

April 23- Prime Minister Ecevit says Chechens are "our brothers," but adds that the government could not tolerate activities that are detrimental to Turkey's interests.

April 24- Following the seizure of a Turkish hotel by pro-Chechen gunmen, once again Turkish-Russian relations are strained.

April 26- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem leaves for Moscow to attend the Foreign Ministerial Council of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC).

April 26- The seventh Turkic-speaking Countries' Summit commences in İstanbul with the leaders of five Turkic speaking countries in attendance.

April 27- The leaders of six Turkic-speaking states sign a joint declaration vowing to strengthen economic and cultural ties and co-operate on security issues.

April 27- The Turkish Defence Ministry will grant its Georgian counterpart \$2.5 million to cover operating expenses and some of the costs of peacekeeping, officials from the two countries announce.

May 03- Prosecutors are investigating allegations of corruption in a multi-billion dollar project to construct a pipeline under the Black Sea to bring Russian gas to Turkey.

May 14- The Foreign Ministry defends its Ambassador in Moscow, Nabi Şensoy, amid press reports claiming he took part in Blue Stream talks on which there are many speculations of corruption.

May 15- İsa Kamber, the leader of the main opposition party in Azerbaijan, al-Musavvat comes to Ankara via invitation by the center for Eurasian Strategic Studies.

May 16- Azerbaijan's parliament ratifies a key deal to sell natural gas from Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz field in the Caspian Sea to Turkey.

May 18- Russian natural gas giant Gazprom says it would cease supplying Turkish companies that had payment problems and find solvent ones to maintain its export volume.

May 23- Russia announces that it is ready to take part in the construction of the Bakü-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline without asserting any political conditions.

June 01- The Russian state-owned gas company Gazprom states that political developments in Turkey will not stop construction of the Blue Stream natural gas pipeline aiming at bringing Russian natural gas to Turkey beneath the Black Sea.

June 04- A visiting Turkish defence delegation signs an agreement with neighboring Georgia granting the impoverished former Soviet republic \$2.5 million in military aid.

June 08- Environment Minister Fevzi AYTEKİN said they objected to ships loaded with radioactive material passing through the Bosphorus.

June 08- Turkish and Russian foreign ministers carefully avoided discussing sensitive issues including the Chechen militant activity in Turkey and the instability in the Caucasus and stressed the importance of increasing co-operation between the two countries.

June 11- Cabinet decided to ask Russia for detailed information on storing nuclear waste there as well as the safety of transporting this waste, particularly through the Turkish straits.

June 11- More than 4,000 troops from 11 countries including Turkey and the US launched military exercises in western Georgia under NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

June 12- The Ankara State Security Court banned Gökhan Yardım, chairman of the state-owned Turkish Pipeline Company (BOTAŞ), from travelling abroad, within the requirements of the investigation into the "Blue Stream" project.

June 13- Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Kasım CÖMERT Tokayev told a U.S. envoy that his country was in favour of Bakü-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline route from the Caspian Sea to Turkey, but called for a more accurate analysis of the project's feasibility and cost.

June 13- Ukrainian border officials securing the Black Sea area agreed with their Turkish counterparts to co-operate in procedures to punish poachers.

June 19- President Sezer says the Turkish straits cannot be seen as an oil transportation route since it may constitute a serious danger for İstanbul and its environs.

June 20- The Black Sea Economic Co-operation Parliamentary Assembly (KEIPA) meeting begins in Bakü.

June 21- Police detain 14 Greenpeace activists protesting outside a conference where some of the world's largest energy companies are discussing how to exploit the natural resources of the Caspian Sea.

June 21- British Petroleum (BP) Shipping General Directorate's Linda Adamany reveals that BP is aware that to rely only on the Turkish straits is not enough for exporting the Caspian region oil and therefore they are supporting the Bakü-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project.

July 03- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu stages a visit to the former Soviet republic of Georgia to discuss bilateral military co-operation and regional security.

July 04- The construction of the Black Sea section of the Blue Stream natural gas project, which will bring Russian natural gas to Turkey beneath the Black Sea, starts.

July 09- Azerbaijani Parliamentary speaker Murtuz Aleskerov pays an official visit to Turkey to improve economic and cultural co-operation between the two countries.

July 10- Deputy Prime Minister Mesut Yılmaz says that improvement of Turkish-Armenian relations will pass through a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute.

July 13- Turkey says it will pursue all legal measures to stop nuclear waste shipments to Russia via busy Turkish waterways, fearing the cargo could wreak an environmental disaster in İstanbul.

July 18- Some 86 non-governmental organisations from the İstanbul Environmental Council and 48 from the Blacksea National non-governmental organisations Forum decide to co-operate to assure safe passage through the Turkish Straits and to minimise the risk involved for people in the region and the environment.

July 23- Kazakhstan Chief of General Staff Alibek Kasimov presents the "Friendship Medallion of the Republic of Kazakhstan" to his Turkish counterpart Gen. Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu.

August 06- One of the world's biggest offshore platforms, the Saipem-7000, to be used in the laying of pipes in deep waters of the Black Sea for the Blue Stream natural gas project, passes through the Bosporus.

August 08- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu arrives in Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea for talks with top government officials on co-operation in shipbuilding and other spheres.

August 13- Turkey urges Iran and Azerbaijan to calm a row over a disputed territory in the oil-rich Caspian Sea, the Turkish Foreign Ministry says.

August 14- Russian Ambassador to Turkey Alexander Lebedev says that his country asks to improve ties with Turkey's eastern cities as well as western cities.

August 14- Turkey begins the trial of 13 pro-Chechen gunmen who held guests and staff hostage at a five-star İstanbul hotel for more than 12 hours in April.

August 15- Turkey and Moldavia sign a military training agreement. Moldavian Defence Minister Col. Victor Gaiciuc and Turkey's Deputy Chief of General Staff Gen. Yaşar Büyükanıt put their signatures to the agreement.

August 15- Turkish military lifts its objection to the passage of an unfinished aircraft carrier through the Turkish straits, bound for China.

August 21- Turkey's policies towards Caucasus and Central Asia are widely discussed at the National Security Council meeting and reportedly council members agree on starting a new initiative in order to redefine Turkey's role in the region.

August 24- Amid the continuing tension between Azerbaijan and Iran due to the status of the Caspian Sea, the Turkish Air Force aerobatics team, Turkish Stars, perform a 22 minute show at the graduation ceremony of the Azerbaijan War School.

August 25- Turkish Chief of General Staff Gen. Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu starts his official visit to Azerbaijan.

August 27- U.S. Under-secretary of State Elizabeth Jones says her country supports reforms made by the Azerbaijani government and its co-operation with Turkey in the Azerbaijani capital of Bakü.

August 28- Turkey agrees to allow the Chinese-owned aircraft carrier, Varyag, that has lingered offshore in the Black Sea for several months, to pass through Bosphorus Strait, Turkey's maritime affairs minister says.

August 29- Ninth President Süleyman Demirel visits Kazakhstan as the honorary guest at an international conference entitled "The 21st century -- towards a world without nuclear weapons."

September 01- The 20-strong group of motorcyclists that set off from Bakü on Aug. 24 in support of the Bakü-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline and Şahdeniz projects arrives at the Kangal district of Sivas.

September 19- Ambassador Aydemir Erman, leaves for Uzbekistan and Iran to meet with top officials in these two countries and discuss Afghanistan issue.

September 23- Turkish envoy Aydemir Erman, a senior Turkish diplomat, just back from a trip to Uzbekistan, flies to Iran. Erman visited Uzbekistan to gain a broad evaluation of the recent situation of the Afghan opposition.

September 25- A visit planned by Pope John Paul II to a monument of the so-called Armenian genocide during his visit to Armenia, causes diplomatic traffic between the Vatican and Ankara. Turkey launches diplomatic attempts both in the Vatican and Ankara, the Pope sends a letter to President Ahmet Necdet Sezer saying that there is no reason to be worried.

September 26- Azerbaijani and Georgian officials reach a long-awaited agreement on transit rates for a major planned natural gas pipeline from the Caspian Sea to Turkey.

September 26- Pope John Paul II pays a tribute on Wednesday to Armenians who were killed in the early 20th century but stops just short of using the specific word "genocide" to describe what happened. He names the incident as "metz yeghern," which means great crime or great evil in Armenian.

September 27- Blackseafor, which has been established by Turkey, Georgia, Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Romania with an agreement signed in Istanbul on Apr. 2, 2001, gets off to a start with a ceremony in Gölcük.

September 27- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer speaks to the Azeri, Pakistani and Kirghiz presidents to assess the latest developments concerning the U.S. attack on Afghanistan to get Osama bin Laden, the head suspect of the terrorist act in the United States.

September 28- President Sezer discusses the terrorist attacks against the U.S. and ways of combating violence in separate telephone conversations with Russian leader Vladimir Putin and the Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze.

October 03- The Chinese government submits a letter to State Minister Şükrü Sina Gürel, requesting the passage of the Varyag, the 500 meter long 'floating platform' through the Straits between Oct. 5-15.

October 03- President Sezer receives Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev in the Presidential Palace in Ankara.

October 05- Armenia appoints Arsen Avakian, a diplomatic representative to İstanbul within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC).

October 06- Turkey's Cabinet decides that the 309-meter (1,020 foot) long Varyag, a former Russian aircraft carrier, can pass through the strait on its way to the Mediterranean "as soon as possible, after ensuring that technical and meteorological conditions are suitable," State Minister Şükrü Sina Gürel says.

October 07- Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze expresses his country's willingness to improve relations with Turkey and NATO, while criticising Russia for directing operations against Chechnya using Georgian territory.

October 09- Two Turkish nationals working for a haulage company are jailed by the Russian courts, for carrying a total amount of 15 tons of explosives destined for Kazakhstan.

October 12- Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagarishvili and his Turkish counterpart Ismail Cem meet in Istanbul to discuss joint efforts against terrorism.

October 16- Foreign Minister Cem receives ambassadors of Central Asian republics at a breakfast meeting, and reveals the Turkish views concerning the new political environment in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attack against New York and Washington.

October 18- The Parliament International Relations Committee approves the agreement by which 6.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas will be transferred from Azerbaijan to Turkey every year.

October 21- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem launches a rapid tour of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, promising to use Ankara's clout in the region to aid Afghan refugees.

October 22- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem visits Afghanistan's neighbour Turkmenistan on the second leg of a trip aimed at forging closer links between ex-Soviet states and NATO in the campaign against Kabul.

October 25- Turkey, in a veiled attack on Russia, warns of the risk of fresh violence flaring in the Caucasus while Western attention was distracted by the crisis over the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

November 01- After 16 months, Turkey lets half-built aircraft carrier Varyag pass through the Bosphorus, the operation forces Turkey to shut down the narrow waterway, one of the world's busiest, to other boats wanting to travel the sole sea route between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

November 04- Varyag drifts in the Aegean Sea after it breaks loose from its tugboats in high gales, Greek coastguard helicopters lift the seven crew to safety.

November 07- President Sezer arrives in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe amid tight security for talks with leaders of Afghanistan's anti-Taliban opposition force.

November 08- President Sezer supports Georgia's push for the withdrawal of Russian military bases from its territory and promises to help mediate conflict in the break away province of Abkhazia.

November 15- Turkey regrets remarks made by Russian head of state Vladimir Putin claiming that Chechen fighters are using Turkey to travel to Afghanistan.

VI. MIDDLE EAST STATES

January 04- Eastern Turkish industrialists say they expect two border gates with Armenia and Iran will open up in 2001.

January 07- The General Staff denies press reports that Turkey had started a new military operation against outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) terrorists in northern Iraq with 10,000 troops.

January 08- The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talabani, arrives in Ankara in a bid to update Ankara on the latest developments in northern Iraq.

January 09- Turkey says its security forces have killed more than 23,000 outlawed PKK members since establishing an emergency rule zone in the Southeast Anatolia 14 years ago.

January 10- Satisfied with the PUK efforts to eliminate the separatist PKK in northern Iraq, Ankara pledges assistance to PUK leader Jalal Talabani.

January 14- "Reliant Mermaid-3" the third joint search and rescue naval manoeuvre with Israel and the United States begins in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

January 16- Turkey and Syria agree on bolstering co-operation on energy during Syrian Minister of Oil and Minerals Mohammed Maher Jamal's visit to Turkey on Jan. 12-16.

January 19- Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami pays a 5-hour visit to Turkey to update Turkey on the most recent developments in the Middle East.

January 19- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem flies to Libya for an official two-day visit upon the invitation of Libyan Foreign Minister Abdurrahman Muhammed Salgam. This visit is seen as an important and historic event, as Cem's visit is the first since 1992.

January 23- Gaziantep's Trade Chamber Chairman and Turkish-Iraqi Business Council Vice Chairman Mehmet Aslan asks the government to increase efforts in lifting economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations against Iraq.

January 25- Relations between Syria and Turkey continue to improve in recent days as Turkey increases the water flow to Syria.

January 25- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu makes a statement to the American defence magazine, Defence News, saying that the modernisation of M-60 tanks would be completed by an Israeli company.

January 26- PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan issues a warning through his lawyers that clashes between the militants of the outlawed PKK and Turkish troops in northern Iraq could spread to Turkey.

January 31- Iraq and Syria say they agree on a plan for sharing the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and urge Turkey to join them for a three-way agreement.

February 05- Omani Defence Minister Seyid Bedr bin Suud bin Harib and his Turkish counterpart Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu sign a memorandum of understanding regarding military co-operation between the two countries.

February 08- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem says he hopes newly elected Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will do his best to secure peace in the Middle East despite the fears of Arab nations.

February 08- Palestinian President Yasser Arafat declares that they are ready to talk peace with the new Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and asks Turkey's help to bring Israel to the negotiation table.

February 12- A group of Turkish parliamentarians fly to Baghdad to observe the health conditions of the Iraqi people, particularly the mothers and children.

February 12- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem arrives in Tehran to discuss a number of political and security issues in a bid to help improve troubled relations, hinting Turkey wants to start a new term with Iran and his visit is aimed at constituting the first step for this new term.

February 14- Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrives in Turkey for previously-unannounced talks with Turkish leaders, states that they expect Turkey to play a greater role in the peace process.

February 14- In the wake of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's visit to Turkey, Israeli Ambassador to Turkey Uri Bar-Ner strongly reacted to Arafat's remarks, characterising him as "a professional liar." Bar-Ner argued that Arafat's remark on Israel's use of nerve gas against Palestinian civilians "is a pure lie."

February 14- Turkey and Iran say they are making progress on border security, a point of frequent feuding between them.

February 17- Turkey, which is forging closer ties with neighboring Iraq, says it hopes U.S.-led aerial attacks on Baghdad would not be repeated.

February 19- State Minister Şükrü Sina Gürel flies to Iran to participate in a UN Conference on the prevention of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and lack of tolerance in Asia.

February 23- U.S. warplanes take off from Incirlik Air Base in Turkey and once again bomb northern Iraq.

February 24- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer leaves for Egypt to attend the third Developing Eight (D-8) summit which seeks to enhance economic co-operation between eight Muslim states.

February 25- Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon's special envoy Meir Rosenne visits Turkey to brief about the latest developments in the region.

February 27- Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon's special envoy, Meir Rosenne, says Israel offers assistance to its ally Turkey which is in the throes of a financial crisis.

February 27- After the latest economic crisis, border trade between Iraq and Turkey stop because the Turkish lira loses more ground following the government's decision to allow it to float.

February 27- Tehran's justice department says Iranian intelligence agents arrest a man they say is spying for Turkey.

February 28- The United States' Secretary of State Colin Powell reportedly asks Turkish counterpart İsmail Cem to follow Syria's example and take steps to prevent violations of UN sanctions against Iraq in their bilateral meeting.

March 02- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Walker meets Turkish Foreign Minister İsmail Cem on a tour of Middle East capitals aiming at bolstering support for the Bush administration's policy towards Iraq.

March 03- Iraq appeals to the Arab League to intervene with the Turkish government and demand it stop allowing U.S. and British warplanes to fly from Turkish territory over Iraqi skies.

March 05- Turkish authorities say they have evidence that two missing pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party (HADEP) members, Serdar Tanış and Ebubekir Deniz, are in PKK camps in northern Iraq.

March 05- Iraq, fearing that foot-and-mouth disease found in cattle in Turkey could spread across the border, takes precautions against the disease.

March 07- Hundreds of families separated for more than 30 years reunite at the border between Turkey and Syria to mark the Muslim holiday.

March 14- Foreign Trade Under-secretary Kürşad Tüzmen says they will work to catch up pre-Gulf war trade volumes with Iraq, which were \$2.5 billion in previous years.

March 20- Turkey's ninth President Süleyman Demirel, who is a member of the international committee set to investigate the source of violence between Israeli and Palestinian, flies to Israel to take part in the committee's work.

March 25- A 17-year-old Iranian throws a firebomb at the Iranian embassy compound in Ankara before being detained by police.

March 26- Former President Süleyman Demirel, who is a member of the Middle East fact-finding committee, returns to Ankara and says that the outlook is not promising in the region.

March 28- Foreign Minister Cem urges the United States to resume its active role in Middle East peacemaking before violence between Israel and the Palestinians gets worse.

March 28- Syria and Turkey sign a five-year agreement for technical, scientific and economic co-operation in agriculture.

March 29- Turkey asks for U.S. support for lifting the UN ban on Turkey's tenders related to Iraq.

April 10- Visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres compares Turkey to a butterfly and says he is confident it could emerge intact from its crisis. Peres says his country and Turkey have yet to agree on a price for a deal to export 50 million cubic metres of water to irrigate parched Israeli lands.

April 16- As a result of the continuing mutual military visits between Ankara and Damascus, Turkey and Syria are to sign a military cooperation agreement in Ankara.

April 18- The Turkish Foreign Ministry vehemently denies the report which claims that the Massoud Barzani-led Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) provides shelter for a terrorist organisation, the Kurdistan Revolution Party (PSK) in northern Iraq.

April 29- Israel Land Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Iftah Ron-Tal arrives in Ankara for an official visit as the guests of Turkish Land Forces Command Chief of Staff Gen. Mehmet Şener Erüygün.

May 01- The Defence Ministry announces that Israel will pay for the F-4 fighter planes whose modernisation renovations have been improperly made.

May 05- The Baghdad Railway line becomes operational after a 19-year interval with the departure of the first train from the town of Nusaybin in eastern Turkey to the Iraqi capital.

May 06- During the visit of a Turkish trade delegation to this country, Iraq warns its neighboring countries not to co-operate with the U.S.-sponsored "smart sanctions" -- a tighter arms embargo coupled with relaxed controls on imports of civilian goods -- or they would lose trade with Baghdad.

May 07- Interior Minister Tantan flies to Iran to discuss security issues.

May 07- Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Massoud Barzani arrives in Ankara to talk with Turkish officials.

May 07- The third Baghdad Turkish Export Fair opens with the participation of Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammed Mehdi Salih and Turkey's Foreign Trade Under-secretary Kürşat Tüzmen.

May 08- KDP leader Barzani states that as long as the PKK insisted on its presence in northern Iraq, his party will continue its struggle against the group.

May 08- Syrian Transportation Minister Makram Obeid arrives in Turkey on an official invitation made by Transportation Minister Enis Öksüz.

May 09- While the Israeli Embassy in Ankara strongly denies the press reports that Israel wants to buy not only the water but the land of Manavgat as well, the Mayor of Manavgat Zeynel Şenol reacts to the news.

May 09- Iran and Turkey say they agree to act jointly against rebels using each other's territory to launch attacks.

May 10- Turkey and Iraq agree to start scheduling railway services after a suspension of 19 years, official statements from both sides say.

May 13- Turkey has become the second closest country to Israel after the United States, Israeli Ambassador to Ankara Uri Bar-Ner says.

May 14- The Foreign Ministry releases a press statement in which it categorically denies the press reports that Israel has asked not only for Manavgat water but for exclusive rights as well.

May 15- Turkey and Israel honor three retired Turkish diplomats who risked their lives to save Jews from Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

May 20- Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Faruk Loğoğlu says Iraq's territorial integrity is "essential" for Turkey.

May 22- Turkey declares concern regarding the recent escalation of tension between the Palestinians and the Israelis, particularly the recent bombing of civilian targets by the Israelis.

May 22- Turkey gives conditional support to the "smart sanctions." Turkey will not break UN ranks over sanctions against Iraq but privately wants the embargo on its neighbour and former major trading partner eased or abolished, analysts and diplomats say.

May 24- President Sezer says that any new sanctions regime against Iraq should not increase the burden on neighboring countries such as Turkey and Jordan.

May 24- An Israeli water delegation arrives in Ankara to meet with Turkish officials to discuss plans to ship fresh water to alleviate shortages in Israel.

May 24- Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdelilah al Khatib, who arrives in Ankara for an official visit, asks Turkey to play a more active role in ending the violence in the Middle East.

May 24- Iraq will be able to reach its full oil exporting capacity through Turkey by the end of 2001 through rehabilitation of the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline, reports the Iraqi News Agency.

May 27- Turkey put a reservation on the decision taken at the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for the boycott of Israel by the Islamic states.

May 29- Israel is reported to be willing to sell Arrow missile defence systems to Turkey, in an effort to revitalise an old offer.

June 01- Turkey says it is concerned over Iran's arming efforts, a day after its eastern neighbour announced it had tested its first solid-fuelled surface-to-surface missile.

June 02- Iraq stops pumping crude oil through a pipeline running to Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

June 03- Turkey condemns a suicide bomb attack in Tel-Aviv which killed 18 people, but calls for self-control as new peace moves had been initiated.

June 04- Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Faruk Loğoğlu, meets with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, as a special representative of the Turkish government, and conveys a message asking for the continuation of the current cease fire and the implementation of the Mitchell Report.

June 06- Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Hüseyin Diriöz declares that the leaders of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, are to be invited to Ankara.

June 07- Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Faruk Loğoğlu, after his visit to Israel as the special envoy of Prime Minister Ecevit, says Turkey is ready to host any possible peace meetings between the two sides.

June 08- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said Turkey will open a second border crossing with Iraq, a sign of improving relations viewed with some concern by the US.

June 11- Turkey and Iraq began talks focused on a U.S.-British proposal to overhaul the 11-year-old sanctions against Baghdad.

June 11- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz asked Turkey not to support the new U.S. plan for new UN sanctions posed against Iraq, called "smart sanctions."

June 11- The Anatolia news agency reported that Turkey will hold a tender this week to provide security at a water extraction plant near the mouth of a southern river that could supply water to Israel.

June 12- Turkish Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Faruk Loğoğlu completed his visit to Baghdad and returned to Turkey.

June 13- A joint commission was established between Iran and Turkey to work on ways of finding a formula to balance the trade volume, which is currently against Turkey at a rate of five-to-two.

June 16- The Foreign Ministry urges both Israelis and Palestinians to show more efforts in observing the U.S. implemented Mideast cease-fire.

June 18- Police detains 81 people while illegally entering the country from Iraq.

June 19- Dr. Nizar Medeni, Saudi Arabian deputy foreign minister, meets with Turkish Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Faruk Loğoğlu as part of the political consultations between Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

June 19- State Minister Recep Önal says the trade volume between Turkey and Syria increased to \$724.7 million last year.

June 20- The United States, Israel and Turkey reach an agreement on the deployment of a missile defence system in Turkey.

June 24- Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Faruk Loğoğlu flies to Iran for an official visit and presents a message from President Ahmet Necdet Sezer to Iran's President Mohammed Khatemi.

June 26- Iraq condemns Turkey for extending the mandate for flights by U.S. and British warplanes patrolling a no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

June 26- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres says, "Turkey and Israel are two countries moving forward, demanding a new age and a future," stating that their relations are not against anybody.

July 02- A group of Syrian tourists visits Nemrut to attend a religious ceremony to celebrate the foundation of an Adiyaman Church, accompanied by İstanbul, İzmir and Adiyaman Metropolitan Filuksinos Yusuf Çetin.

July 02- Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alavi bin Abdullah pays an official visit to Turkey as a guest of his Turkish counterpart İsmail Cem and says that his country supports Turkey in finding a peaceful solution to the Cyprus dispute.

July 06- Israel's new Ambassador to Turkey David Sultan presents his letter of credence to President Ahmet Necdet Sezer.

July 08- Iraq condemns what it calls "repeated aggression by Turkey" on its north, the official Iraqi news agency INA says.

July 09- Israel's defence minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer arrives in Ankara to discuss increasingly close military co-operation between the two countries with top officials.

July 10- Turkish Foreign Ministry delegation visits Salahaddin in northern Iraq to meet Masoud Barzani to dispel ongoing rumours that there is a rift between the Iraqi Kurdish administration and Ankara.

July 11- Iraq resumes pumping oil through a pipeline that runs to Turkey's Mediterranean coast after a one-month halt.

July 16- Energy Minister Zeki Çakan goes to Lebanon to take part in the eight Ministerial Meeting of the Interconnection Project between Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

July 20- Ending a 20-year gap, Iraq resumes regular passenger train service to Turkey.

July 24- Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammed Rasheed arrives in Turkey to boost oil and trade links.

July 25- Turkey and Iraq sign a protocol after the completion of the 13th Joint Economic Committee meeting.

July 27- Israeli army's chief of staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz visits Turkey to discuss the close defence relations between the two countries.

July 30- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem flies to Cairo to meet with the secretary general of the Arab league, Amr Moussa.

July 31- Ismail Cem during a press conference at Cairo says that Turkey's relations with Israel are not against any third country and these relations are being exaggerated not only by Arabs, but also by circles in Israel.

August 01- Turkish Foreign Ministry condemns an Israeli attack on offices of the Hamas movement that killed eight Palestinians.

August 05- Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon says the relationship between Turkey and Israel can be defined as an alliance of democracies.

August 05- Iranian Oil Minister Bijen Namdar Zengene claims that Turkey is accusing Iran, despite her failure to solve technical problems blocking the Turkish-Iranian natural gas project.

August 07- Turkish police detains 18 people protesting an upcoming visit by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to his Turkish counterpart Bülent Ecevit.

August 08- Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrives in Ankara to urge his counterpart to press Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to end a 10-month-old uprising.

August 08- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit urges Israel's Ariel Sharon to seek peace talks with Palestinians rapidly without waiting to end the violence, while Sharon put conditions on resuming the peace talks by saying that the violence must be entirely ended before peace talks can resume.

August 08- Energy and Natural Resources Minister Zeki Çakan receives Iran's Ambassador to Turkey Muhammed Hussain Lavasani to talk about the transfer of Iranian natural gas to Turkey.

August 09- Iraqi Oil Ministry Under-secretary Faiz Abdullah Sahin says that an exception is being granted for Turkish, Russian, Syrian and Jordanian companies regarding financial deals.

August 09- Turkey condemns a Palestinian suicide bomb attack that killed 18 people in Jerusalem .

August 13- State Minister Mehmet Keçeciler pays a visit to Pakistan to participate in the "Independence Day" celebrations.

August 15- Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz claims that Israel signed secret co-operative agreements with 39 countries, including Turkey, in an attempt to prevent information leaks from joint security projects.

August 16- Jordanian Under-secretary Shahir Bak arrives in Ankara to have talks with officials.

August 19- Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon calls Turkish Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit to explain the reason for the closure of "Orient House" and to promise that he would not escalate tension.

August 21- Syrian Irrigation Minister Taha al-Atrash arrives in Ankara as the official guest of State Minister Mustafa Yılmaz.

August 21- Syria's irrigation minister holds talks with Turkish officials about Turkish dams on the Euphrates River, which Damascus claims are severely reducing the flow of water into the country.

August 21- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz condemns the statements made by Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Mesut Yılmaz during the ANAP congress that Turkey has to make a choice between being a Western country or being an isolated country like Iraq. Aziz says Yılmaz lacked politeness and courtesy, and contradicted his government's statements that there is a friendly stance towards Iraq.

August 22- The Kurdish enclave of northern Iraq has recently opened a new headquarters for a regional government-owned bank that is designed to encourage local business.

August 23- Turkey and Syria sign a protocol on co-operation between the South-eastern Anatolia Project (GAP) and its Syrian counterpart Gold.

August 24- Visiting Syrian Irrigation Minister Taha al-Atrash urges Turkey to join water sharing talks with his country and Iraq -- an issue that has long troubled ties between the two Arab states and Ankara.

August 26- Israel Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Arik Arazi arrives in İstanbul.

August 28- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Deputy Director John McLaughlin states that Turkey and Israel are under more of a serious missile threat because both Iran and Iraq have developed their ground to ground missile attributes.

August 29- A delegation of Turkish businessmen headed by Under-secretary of Foreign Trade Kürşat Tüzmen leaves for Baghdad.

August 30- Iraq accuses Turkey of attacking its northern territories.

September 12- Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader Celal Talabani meets special envoy of Mesud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democrat Party (KDP), Hosyar Zebari in Süleymaniye. Both sides agree on establishing a joint security and stability strategy for the region.

September 17- The Iraqi government stops diesel flow to the north of the country, where approximately 3,000 Turkish trucks going to the region form long queues along the Habour border gate.

September 26- The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) state that its "peshmerga" forces have taken the town of Halabja in fighting against two Islamist groups active in the region close to the Iranian border. The Islamist forces are said to be close to Afghan-based militant Osama bin Laden.

September 28- The United Nations Compensation Commission awards Turkish company BOTAŞ Petroleum Pipeline 176 million dollars in compensation for losses incurred during the Gulf War.

October 03- Western warplanes attack two anti-aircraft artillery sites in southern Iraq, the third such strike in six days, a U.S. military spokesman in the region says.

October 03- State Minister Ramazan Mirzaoğlu opens the "Turkish Export Goods Fair" in Hartum, the capital city of Sudan.

October 09- Police in eastern Turkey detain 115 Afghans who have illegally entered the country from Iran hiding in several trucks near Doğubeyazıt.

October 13- Jordan's King Abdullah arrives in Ankara to meet Turkish officials including President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and Foreign Minister İsmail Cem.

October 14- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says Turkey, which backs the United States in its war on terrorism, opposes any possible U.S.-led military action against.

October 16- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit speaks out strongly against any attack on Iraq in the present war on global terrorism.

October 16- United States ambassador to Turkey Ambassador Robert Pearson visits the Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee and briefs them on the war against terrorism and on developments within the region.

October 17- Foreign Minister Cem strongly condemns the assassination of the former Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi.

October 18- Turkey will play an important political role in rebuilding Afghanistan if the U.S.-British military campaign topples its ruling Taliban regime, Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw says in Ankara.

October 20- Istanbul plays host to a committee meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

October 21- Nechirvan Barzani, a top member of the Massoud Barzani-led Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) arrives in Ankara for meetings with the Turkish diplomats.

October 22- Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Bulendiyan arrives in Ankara for talks with Turkish officials on security issues.

October 23- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem says Turkey is considering hosting a meeting of Afghan opposition groups to discuss a new government once the Taliban is defeated.

October 24- Turkey and Iran sign a memorandum for fighting terror groups, following three day long high security committee talks in Ankara, headed by Iranian Interior Ministry deputy Golam Hussein Bolandiyan and Turkish Interior Ministry under-secretary Muzaffer Ecemiş.

October 24- Three Iraqi nationals are killed and 32 other migrants are injured when a lorry carrying them into Turkey crashed in the east of the country.

October 25- Iraq accuses Turkey of stationing troops in its Kurdish-controlled north and asks UN Secretary-General Kofi Anan to press Turkey to withdraw its forces.

October 30- Turkey sends a business delegation to Iraq in an effort to strengthen trade links that are already flourishing despite UN sanctions against Baghdad.

November 01- Turkey says it will deploy a 90-person special forces troop to Afghanistan, becoming the first Muslim country to join in the U.S.-led attacks against Kabul's Taliban rulers and Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S.

November 05- Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi arrives in Ankara to express Tehran's uneasiness over Turkey's decision to send special forces to Afghanistan to work with U.S. troops and anti-Taliban fighters.

November 06- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem says Iran is expected to start pumping natural gas through a new Iranian-Turkish pipeline by the end of this year.

November 07- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer begins talks with Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of Afghanistan's opposition Northern Alliance, whose forces say they are preparing an offensive in the north of the country.

November 08- A possible strike against Iraq would be against Turkey, General Staff Chief General Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu says in Diyarbakır.

November 11- A newspaper owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday warns Turkey that it would be making "a grave mistake" if it participated in any U.S.-led attack against Iraq.

November 11- Iranian Oil Minister Bijen Namdar Zengene says that they plan to officially appeal against Turkey due to delay in natural gas imports from Iran.

November 11- Turkey urges the formation of a new political structure for Afghanistan, and conveys the will to take part in such an arrangement to the United Nations during Foreign Minister Ismail Cem's meeting with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and his special Afghanistan representative Lakhdar Brahimi.

November 14- Turkey announces that it is reopening its diplomatic missions in the Afghan cities of Kabul and Mazar-e sharif, which are now controlled by Afghan opposition fighters.

November 24- Turkey's top envoy for Afghanistan, Ambassador Aydemir Erman leaves Ankara for Bonn, to take part in the meeting of Afghan opposition groups.

November 24- Foreign Ministry Deputy Under-secretary Sencer Ozsoy arrives in Tehran to stage talks with Iranian officials on Afghanistan.

November 28- Iraqi Ambassador to Ankara Faruq al-Hijazee is called back to Baghdad at short notice, amid allegations that prior to his posting to Ankara he was a member of Iraqi intelligence who allegedly met with Osama bin Laden in 1998 and who several times met with Muhammed Atta, a man believed to be one of the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11.

November 28- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer says Palestinian rights are key to resolving the conflict in the Middle East and called for Israel and the Palestinian authority to resume peace talks.

November 28- Defence Minister Sabahattin Çakmakoğlu hints that Turkey may drop its opposition to the spread of the U.S.-led anti-terror campaign to neighboring Iraq.

November 30- Iraqi ambassador to Ankara, Faruq al-Hijazee leaves Ankara after being recalled by his country following media reports linking him to meetings with members of the al-Qaeda network, without paying farewell visits to either the president or the prime minister.

November 30- Syria and Iraq call on Turkey to return to negotiations over the allocation of water from the Euphrates and Tigris rivers -- talks broke off nine years ago.

December 01- Iraq rejects claims that its outgoing ambassador to Turkey met with Osama bin Laden, labeling such reports as "American-Zionist propaganda" against Arab and Islamic countries.

December 03- Turkish, Israeli and U.S ships and planes begin exercises off Turkey's Mediterranean coast -- their fourth joint naval maneuvers since 1998.

December 03- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says he is deeply concerned by the outbreak of violence in the Middle East and is trying to speak to both sides to urge peace. He speaks to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat but fails to reach Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

December 04- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit telephones Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to discuss developments in the Middle East as Israeli troops enter Palestinian-ruled areas.

December 05- U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell assures the Turkish leaders that President George W. Bush did not take a decision concerning an operation against Iraq.

December 09- State Minister Şükrü Sina Gürel leaves for Doha, Qatar, to participate in a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

December 10- Ankara decides to move Turkish Ambassador to Libya Müfit Özdeş to Afghanistan as Turkey's new ambassador to Kabul, Afghanistan, as a part of efforts to form an interim government in the country.

December 10- Turkey receives its first delivery of natural gas through a new pipeline from Iran.

December 14- A U.S. delegation, headed by Ryan Crocker, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. State Department visits Ankara to discuss the situation in Iraq after a trip to northern Iraq.

December 14- Turkish Petroleum Co. Ltd., a Turkish state oil company, wins a UN-approved contract to drill oil in Iraq.

December 16- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem arrives in Islamabad en route to Kabul.

December 16- Turkey, reopens its embassy in Kabul at a ceremony attended by Foreign Minister İsmail Cem.

December 19- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit, pledges to help the war-torn Afghanistan to build an army and police force.

December 21- Turkey is among the candidates for succeeding Britain as leader of the international peacekeeping force for Afghanistan, a senior US State Department official says.

December 23- Turkey decides to restart Joint Economic Commission meetings with Afghanistan, State Minister Mehmet Keçeciler says.

December 25- Parliament extends for six months the mandate allowing U.S. and British warplanes to patrol the no-fly zone in northern Iraq as fears mount that Washington could next target Iraq in its war on terrorism.

December 25- Chief of General Staff Gen. Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu strongly opposes suggestions that Iraq should be the next target for the U.S., fearing that this could lead to the division of Iraq and the formation of a Kurdish state at Turkey's borders.

December 25- Prime Minister Ecevit sends a letter to the prime minister of the new Afghan interim government Hamid Karzai and invites him to Turkey.

December 25- Emir of Qatar Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani pays an official visit to Ankara.

December 25- Turkey officially declares its will to apply the US for taking command of the international peace force to be deployed in Afghanistan after the end of the British command.

December 26- "Recently, nothing has been able to strain the relations between Iran and Turkey," says Iranian President Mohammed Khatami.

December 27- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit says the Washington promises to discuss with Ankara any steps it might consider taking against Iraq in its "war on terror."

VII. OTHERS

January 08- Foreign Minister Ismail Cem and his Chinese counterpart Tang Jiaxuan put their signatures on an "action plan" to improve both political and economic relations between the two countries.

January 16- China pledges its support for a settlement on Cyprus and says that, as a member of the UN Security Council, it would work to see resolutions on the conflict adopted.

January 17- Visiting Cuban Foreign Minister Feline Perez Roque meets with Foreign Minister Cem. The two ministers sign a protocol envisaging co-operation in combating drug smuggling.

January 27- Turkey sends a 35-member rescue team with dogs and rescue equipment to India's Gujarat state, where thousands remain trapped under the rubble after a devastating earthquake.

February 18- International Monetary Fund (IMF) First Vice President Stanley Fischer arrives in Istanbul to attend the finance deputy ministers and Central Bank assistant directors of the G-20 member countries meeting.

February 19- Officials of the G-20 countries meet in Istanbul. Police detain 40 anti-globalisation protesters who hurl coins and eggs at a hotel hosting the meeting.

February 23- Turkish and IMF officials hold talks on how to revise Turkey's stabilisation program after a political and economic crisis batters the lira.

March 14- In a European Champions League group match between Paris Saint Germain and Galatasaray in Paris, 56 people were injured after a melee broke out between the supporters of both teams.

March 16- The International Monetary Fund welcomes Turkey's new economic program and says it hopes to begin negotiations soon on a revised loan program.

March 20- A delegation from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) comprised of members from Korea, Australia and the Philippines, arrives in Istanbul for a four-day tour of the city in order to assess its suitability to host the 2008 Olympic Games.

April 03- Turkey refuses China permission to bring through the busy Bosphorus straits a giant, half-built, Soviet-era aircraft carrier earmarked as a floating casino.

April 15- Pakistan's Chief Executive Pervez Musharraf says his country wants to improve ties with Turkey and calls for both countries to make more efforts to boost ties.

April 22- Finance ministers of the EU member states demand that the IMF and G-7 countries provide exceptional foreign financial aid to help Turkey to overcome the economic crisis, at the Malmeaux Summit.

April 24- Thousands of Australian and New Zealander tourists come to Çanakkale to attend the "Dawn Ritual," taking place on the Gallipoli Peninsula, on the occasion of the 86th anniversary of the ANZAC deployment.

June 06- Chief of General Staff Gen. Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu visits Beijing as part of an official visit to China.

June 07- Turkish Chief of General Staff Gen. Kıvrıkoğlu, during an official visit to China, meets with Chinese President and Central Military Commission Chairman, Jiang Zemin.

June 08- Amnesty International U.S. section named former Turkish Human Rights Association Chairman Akin Birdal among the Heroes of the Year 2000.

June 15- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) praises Turkey's economic recovery program at a meeting in Istanbul, saying it could help bring in much needed foreign investment.

June 15- Turkish experts and analysts say the establishment of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation means Turkey's policies towards Central Asia have become void.

June 27- North Korea says it has established diplomatic ties with Turkey.

June 28- Turkey rejoins the American-led UN Command based in South Korea, command officials say.

June 28- Indian Interior Minister Lal Krishna Advani arrives in Ankara for a four-day official visit and says his country is determined to boost economic and political ties with Turkey. He signs an extradition treaty to allow the exchange of suspects.

July 07- Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit said the IMF will continue its financial support for Turkey, but that will remain tied to certain conditions being met.

July 11- International credit rating agency Standard & Poor's turns Turkey's outlook to negative from stable citing concerns about high political and program implementation risks, a heavy domestic debt burden and weaknesses in the banking sector.

July 25- Human Rights Watch calls on Turkey to immediately rescind an order that would authorise virginity tests on high school nursing students suspected of having sex.

July 28- The last known British survivor of the ill-fated World War I Allied landings on Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula dies at a nursing home in western Australia, aged 106.

August 14- Turkish and Mongolian archaeologists discover thousands of mostly golden and silver ornaments and utensils near a memorial shrine believed to be for an 8th century Turkish ruler in Mongolia, famous for the Orhun Inscriptions.

August 15- Turkey's military lifts its objection to the passage of an unfinished aircraft carrier that is bound for China through the Bosphorus.

August 25- State Minister Şükrü Sina Gürel flies to China for an official visit.

August 27- Indian Foreign Affairs Ministry Additional Secretary R.C.M. Abhyankar visits Turkish Foreign Ministry Deputy Under-secretary Uğur Ziyal for bilateral consultations.

August 28- Turkey agrees to allow the hulk of a Chinese-owned aircraft carrier, Varyag, that has lingered offshore in the Black Sea for several months, to pass through Bosphorus Strait, Turkey's maritime affairs minister says.

September 05- The Turkish basketball team beats Croatia 87-85 after a crunchy match in which normal time ended 73-73. Turkey not only made it

to the semi-finals, but also gained a place for the World Championship next year in Indianapolis, after 52 years.

September 11- The ambassadors and representatives to Turkey from 29 countries begin their Southeast trip, arranged by the GAP administration. They visit historical and touristic sites in Diyarbakır, Mardin and Urfa.

September 20- The foreign ministry urges Turkish citizens not to travel to Pakistan and says Turks should consider leaving Pakistan if possible, given the heightened security risk after last week's attacks on the U.S.

September 23- Turkish Airlines organise an emergency flight to Islamabad to bring Turkish citizens out of the country. 60 passengers, mostly the wives and children of the workers and diplomats in Pakistan return to Turkey on the flight.

September 24- The Faith Summit, which was meant to be held between Oct. 4 and 7, is postponed due to the atmosphere created after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in the United States.

September 25- Turkey-Mongolia Joint Economic Board Protocol is signed in Ankara, after three days of constructive meetings between the two parties.

October 03- The Chinese government submits a letter to State Minister Şükrü Sina Gürel, requesting the passage of the Varyag, the 500 meter long 'floating platform' through the Straits between Oct. 5-15.

October 21- Foreign Minister İsmail Cem proposes hosting a meeting between the European Union and Islamic countries to promote understanding following the Sept. 11 attacks on the US.

October 25- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer arrives in Pakistan to discuss the future of Afghanistan and express solidarity with Pakistan concerning the U.S.-led air strikes against Afghanistan.

November 01- After 16 months, Turkey lets half-built aircraft carrier Varyag pass through the Bosphorus, the operation forces Turkey to shut down the narrow waterway, one of the world's busiest, to other boats wanting to travel the sole sea route between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

November 04- Varyag drifts in the Aegean Sea after it breaks loose from its tugboats in high gales, Greek coastguard helicopters lift the seven crew to safety.

November 05- Turkey attempts to reverse a decision made by the Japanese Foreign Ministry that declares Turkey a "second degree risk" country.

November 12- Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, meets Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit during his short stop in Turkey and calls for a

UN peacekeeping mission including forces from Muslim nations to be deployed in Kabul and says that Turkey and Pakistan could contribute.

November 16- The Japanese Foreign Ministry removes Turkey from its list of second-degree risk countries.

November 18- State Minister Ramazan Mirzaoglu arrives in London to attend the 22nd General Congress of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

December 14- Patriarch Bartholomew I joins other religious leaders in Istanbul for a service to mark a day of prayer and fasting called for by Pope John Paul II.

December 14- Maj-Gen. Jin Ha Hwang, a South Korean general, is appointed to lead the more than 1,200 UN peacekeepers stationed in Cyprus to patrol a buffer zone between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

December 25- The Cathedral of St. George hosts some 500 worshippers, mainly members of Istanbul's Greek community, for a Christmas service led by the Patriarch Bartholomew I.

December 26- Turkey presents a report titled, "Actions taken by Turkey against terrorism," to the UN, which is requested from the UN members following the Sept. 11 attack against the U.S.