

CHRONOLOGY

CONTENTS

- I. RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
- II. CYPRUS ISSUE AND THE ANNAN PLAN
- III. RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES
- IV. RELATIONS WITH MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN IRAQ QUESTION
- V. RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA, CAUCASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA
- VI. OTHERS AND DOMESTIC

I. RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

January 08- The president, prime minister, foreign minister and, chief of general staff, meet to review a draft document prepared by the Foreign Ministry on Turkey's new approach to stalled efforts to reunify the divided island of Cyprus before it joins the EU on May 1. An official statement issued after the summit reaffirms Turkish support for the goodwill mission of the UN secretary-general and UN peace efforts.

January 08- Leaders of Germany's opposition Christian Democratic Party (CDU) and its Bavarian affiliate, the Christian Social Union, announce they will make their opposition to Turkey's membership in the EU a campaign theme for this year's European Parliament elections.

January 09- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says that Turkey will do everything possible to help solve a long dispute over the divided island Cyprus by

*Prepared from *Turkish Probe* by Research Assistant Atay Akdevelioğlu

May 1, when Cyprus is due to join the European Union, but adds that a solution requires goodwill from both sides.

January 09- Turkey signs Protocol 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, lifting capital punishment even in wartime and under the threat of war, as it seeks to meet EU membership criteria.

January 12- European Commission President Romano Prodi praises Turkey's progress in adopting reforms aimed at preparing its way for EU membership and says religion will be no bar for the overwhelmingly Muslim country, although there may be problems with its huge population.

January 14- Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the EU, says it would be politically very difficult to open long-awaited membership talks with Turkey this year if Cyprus remains divided.

January 15- EU Commission President Romano Prodi, accompanied by EU Commissioner Responsible for Enlargement Guenter Verheugen, arrives in Ankara for the first visit to Turkey by an EU Commission president in 40 years. Addressing Turkish Parliament after talks with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

January 17- Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou steers his election drive into sensitive regional issues with an appeal for Turkey and Greece to jointly reduce defence spending to free funds for education and social programs. Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül welcomes a Greek call for reciprocal military spending cuts and says Turkey is already reducing defence outlays.

January 21- German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer arrives in Ankara, says that Turkey is making impressive progress in its European Union bid but must still implement political reforms to win entry talks with the EU.

January 21- Javier Solana, the secretary-general of the EU Council and high representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), says relations between civilian and military authorities in Turkey should meet European standards.

January 30- Britain appoints Barbara Hay as its new consul-general in Istanbul, to replace Roger Short, the envoy who was killed in a suicide bombing against the Consulate in November.

February 04- "The European Union should offer Turkey an alternative to membership", Angela Merkel, leader of Germany's Christian Democratic Union Party (CDU) opposition, says in an address at the start of a two-day congress of the European People's Party (EPP) in Brussels.

February 05- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül addresses a congress of EPP, tells that "Turkey would be an asset and never a burden for the European Union".

February 09- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül arrives in Warsaw for talks with Polish counterpart Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz and says Poland has shown its support for Turkey's membership to the European Union.

February 16- Angela Merkel, leader of the German Christian Democratic Union Party (CDU), which opposes a full membership of Turkey to the European Union, holds talks with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Parliamentary Speaker Bülent Arınç and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül in Ankara during a visit. Speaking after talks with Merkel, Erdoğan rebuffs sharply her proposal for a special partnership for Turkey, rather than full membership, and says such a thing is out of the question.

February 17- Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson arrives in Ankara for talks on Turkey's bid to join the European Union and meets with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and other officials, becoming the first Swedish prime minister to visit Turkey.

February 17- Turkish could become an official language of the European Union this year if Cyprus decide both Greek and Turkish are its official languages

February 21- "Turkish membership in the European Union would overburden the bloc and end hopes of closer political union", Bavarian Governor Edmund Stoiber, a leading German conservative, says.

February 22- In Ankara, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder says that Turkey has achieved significant progress on the way to becoming a European Union member due to the reform policies of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

February 24- German Chancellor Schröder attends the opening ceremony of the Sığözü power plant in the southern province of Adana together with Prime Minister Erdoğan. The German-funded plant is expected to meet 7 percent of Turkey's energy needs.

March 01- President of the European Parliament Pat Cox arrives in Ankara, becoming the first European Parliament head to visit Turkey. Cox praises Turkey for the reform steps it has accomplished but urges the country to commit itself to implementing the reforms if it is to succeed in its ultimate goal of European Union membership.

March 03- The monitoring committee of the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly approves a special report recommending that Turkey be dropped from a list of countries monitored by the Strasbourg-based human rights watchdog for democratic deficiencies.

March 03- British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw visits Istanbul to attend a memorial service for victims of a November 2003 suicide attack against the British Consulate in Istanbul. He meets with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and, praising the

progress Turkey has made in meeting the EU criteria, says he hopes the EU will agree to open accession talks with Turkey in a December summit.

March 08- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül meet with Gunther Verheugen, the EU commissioner in charge of enlargement, Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowen and Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot, members of the EU Troika, in Ankara. The Troika officials say the EU will open entry talks with Turkey without delay if the Ankara government continues its efforts to fulfil the bloc's basic political criteria.

March 08- Dutch EU Commissioner Frits Bolkestein wants Turkey to be kept outside the European Union to act as a buffer protecting Europe from Syria, Iran and Iraq. Bolkestein's views are in a his new book, "The Limits of Europe".

March 24- British Prime Minister Tony Blair urges the European Union to unite in the face of terrorism and says that welcoming Turkey, a predominantly Muslim nation, into the EU could undermine the cause of Islamic extremists.

March 29- Turkey formally becomes part of the Council of Europe's treaty for combating corruption as Turkish permanent representative to the council Daryal Batibay presents documents of approval to council head Walter Schwimmer. The treaty envisages extended international co-operation in the fight against crimes of corruption.

April 01- The European Parliament adopts a report on Turkey's membership efforts which calls on Turkey to accelerate political and economic reforms and urges it to adopt a whole new constitution based on western democratic values if it is to join the European Union.

April 01- The EU's Enlargement Commissioner Guenter Verhaegen praises Turkey and urges Greece and Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos to show leadership after UN-brokered Cyprus peace talks ended without an agreement. He says, Turkey played a very constructive and co-operative role in the negotiations.

April 05- The European Union says in a statement that it has updated its list of terrorist organisations and adds the renamed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), KADEK and KONGRA-GEL, a decision which commits the member countries to freeze funds and block assets for the outlawed group operating under any of these names.

April 07- France's Foreign Minister Michel Barnier tells French National Assembly that France would oppose Turkey's entry into the European Union under current circumstances.

April 09- French President Jacques Chirac continues to await a European Commission report this year on whether the European Union will open accession talks with Turkey, a spokeswoman for Chirac says. The spokeswoman says the

president's position is unchanged, despite a decision this week of his ruling conservative UMP party to oppose Turkish entry to the bloc in its campaign for June elections to the European Parliament.

April 12- Estonian Foreign Minister Kristiina Ojuland confers with her Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gül in Ankara, focusing on Turkey's bid to join the EU and her bid to become the next secretary-general of the Council of Europe in elections for the post in June.

April 17- Turkey will not be able to join the European Union any time soon but the EU should not slam the door in its face, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier says in an interview.

April 22- The European Parliament adopts a resolution calling on Turkey to release convicted four former deputies, warning their case could harm Turkey's bid to open membership talks with the EU.

April 27- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder meets Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Cologne and praises Turkey's leaders for their support of a Cyprus reunification plan that collapsed after Greek Cypriot resistance. He also reassures Erdoğan of Germany's support for Turkey's European Union membership bid.

April 28- British Prime Minister Tony Blair backs Turkish membership of the European Union, saying that allowing it to join would help to bridge the gap between Europe and the Islamic world.

April 30- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says he is confident the EU would agree in December to open entry talks with his country but says Ankara would look to other alternatives if the answer is "no". Erdoğan says, Turkey sincerely believes that the EU will make the right decision on opening accession talks and will show the will to start negotiations as soon as possible.

April 30- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder gives strong backing to Turkey's bid to join the European Union a day before the union enlarges to 25 members, saying it could boost stability and security in Europe and the Middle East.

May 01- Prime Minister Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül attend May 1 EU enlargement ceremonies in Dublin, welcoming 10 new members into the union.

May 06- Prime Minister Erdoğan starts a visit to Greece, to discuss bilateral relations and Turkey's bid to join the EU. He meets with his Greek counterpart, Costas Karamanlis, Erdoğan says after meeting Karamanlis that his government is determined to leave behind the past and look to the future in ties with Greece.

May 08- Prime Minister Erdoğan pays a visit to Western Thrace, becoming the first Turkish prime minister to visit the region in more than 50 years.

May 10- The European Union welcomes new reforms passed by the Turkish Parliament as another step to meeting its demands for Turkish membership in the 25-nation union. Guenter Verheugen, the EU's commissioner for enlargement, says political reforms adopted by the Turkish Parliament show Turkey's strong commitment to meeting democratic standards.

May 11- The EU Commission's representative to Turkey, Hansjorg Kretschmer, criticises the military for its statement a week ago on government's plans to reform higher education. He says the chief of general staff's statement on the Higher Education Board (YOK) bill was a mistake and describes it as a step backwards compared to the recent progress made by Turkey.

May 12- The Turkish Foreign Ministry criticises the EU Commission representative in Ankara, Hansjorg Kretschmer, for his comments berating the military for its involvement in a bitter debate on government plans to reform higher education.

May 17- British Prime Minister Tony Blair arrives in Turkey for a six-hour visit to discuss Iraq and to back Ankara's European Union aspirations. Turkey and Britain declare an action plan committing the two countries to co-operate on a wide variety of issues ranging from bilateral ties to backing Turkey's bid to join the EU. This co-operation will also include British support for direct British and EU contact with Turkish Cypriots in the economic, political and cultural fields.

May 17- Speaking after a meeting in Brussels, the ministers of Turkey and Greece say the two countries are to cut their defence spending in the years to come. The statements by Greek Foreign Minister Spilios Spilotopoulos and Turkish Defence Minister Vecdi Gönül come after Turkey's decision to freeze multi-billion dollar military tenders for the purchase of new fighter helicopters, unmanned aircraft and tanks. Spilotopoulos says that Greece is planning a 25 percent cut in its defence budget over the next five years.

May 20- Prime Minister Erdoğan starts a visit to Romania aimed at boosting bilateral ties and meets with his Romanian counterpart, Adrian Nastase. Erdoğan says Turkey wants to increase annual trade volume from the current \$1.8 billion to \$2.5 billion by the end of the year. Nastase, for his part, thanks Turkey for its support in helping his country join NATO and pledges Romania's support for Turkey's bid to start negotiations with the EU.

May 21- Rejection of Turkey by the European Union would provoke a backlash in the wider Muslim world and increase the risk of a "clash of civilisations," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is quoted as saying by the Wall Street Journal.

May 24- Britain's Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, arrives in Turkey for a visit aimed at promoting investment projects here. The prince, who is Britain's special representative for international trade and investment, meets Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül to discuss bilateral trade ties and Turkey's bid to join the European Union.

May 26- Two monuments are unveiled in the Black Sea province of Trabzon to commemorate the 62 Spanish soldiers who died in a plane crash one year ago while returning from peacekeeping duties in Afghanistan. Spanish Defence Minister Jose Bono and 152 relatives of the victims attend the ceremony.

May 26- Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi holds talks with his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gül in Ankara. The two ministers discuss opening of a new border gate to ease two-way trade. Pasi also says Bulgaria supports Turkey's aspirations to join the European Union.

May 27- The EU's Enlargement Commissioner Guenter Verheugen hints the bloc may be ready to start accession talks with membership hopeful Turkey even if Ankara does not meet all criteria by its October deadline. "We cannot use double standards here", Verheugen tells a conference in Brussels.

June 01- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer pays an official visit to Poland upon the invitation of his Polish counterpart Alexander Kwasniewskimi to discuss Turkey's bid to join the European Union.

June 05- Guenter Verheugen is quoted as saying the division of Cyprus will not play a decisive role in the executive's report in October on whether to start membership talks with Turkey.

June 16- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan visits the Netherlands, which will take over the EU's rotating term presidency in July, and meets his Dutch counterpart Jan Peter Balkenende. The Dutch premier praises steps taken by Turkey as part of its process of becoming a European Union member at a press conference after talks with Erdoğan.

June 21- The European Union is not ready to accept Turkey as a member and needs more time to assimilate the countries of central and eastern Europe, Austria's new President Heinz Fischer says. "We are talking about a large country of 70 millions people. Turkey can change the balances within the EU. It can turn everything upside down," Fischer says.

June 22- The Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly decides to stop monitoring Turkey for democratic shortcomings, boosting Ankara's hopes of opening accession talks with the European Union. "The assembly believes Turkey has in the past three years clearly shown its will and ability to fulfil its statutory obligations as a member of the Council of Europe", a resolution adopted by the assembly says.

June 27- Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi says that it would be a historic mistake if the EU does not give Turkey a date to start its membership talks.

June 28- French President Jacques Chirac tells Bush to mind his own business after Bush urges the EU to fix a date for Turkey to start EU entry talks. Chirac says, it is like me trying to tell the United States how it should manage its relations with Mexico.

July 04- Austrian Prime Minister Wolfgang Schuessel is saying that the beginning of accession talks between Turkey and the European Union will not necessarily mean Turkey will become a full member. "Either full membership, or entry to an enhanced European economic region or a strategic partnership should be open to discussion", Schuessel says.

July 06- Erdoğan starts a two-day visit to Bulgaria to discuss economic ties and political co-operation between the two countries with Bulgarian Prime Minister Simeon Sakskoburgotski and other officials. Erdoğan says that Bulgaria has become Turkey's fifth largest trading partner.

July 08- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer arrives in Romania at the invitation of his counterpart Ion Iliescu. "Within the last two years the trade volume has reached around \$2 billion, and will increase yet further", Sezer says.

July 13- Turkey and Greece sign a memorandum of understanding envisaging co-operation against terrorism, illegal immigration and drug-smuggling. The agreement is signed between Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu and visiting Greek Minister for Public Security George Vulgarakis.

July 19- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan begins a three-day visit to France aimed at convincing French leaders Turkey should be allowed to begin entry talks to the EU. Erdoğan meets with French President Jacques Chirac and says Turkey expects France to continue its support towards Turkey's drive to join the EU.

July 21- State-run Turkish Airlines (THY) says it will buy 36 planes from European manufacturer Airbus and 15 from US-based Boeing. A memorandum of understanding between the THY and Airbus for the purchase of planes is signed in Paris at a ceremony overseen by Chirac and Erdoğan.

July 23- Five Turkish ministers attend a ceremony marking the reopening of the Stari Most, the famous Ottoman-era bridge of the divided Mostar town destroyed 11 years ago by Bosnian-Croatian artillery.

July 25- Spain's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos holds talks with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül during a stopover in Ankara. Two ministers discuss the situation in Iraq, Cyprus and issues relating to Turkey's bid to join the European Union.

August 11- Vatican's top theologians Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger says, "Mainly Muslim Turkey should seek its future in an association of Islamic nations rather than try to join a European community with Christian roots".

August 27- French President Jacques Chirac says Turkey and the European Union have an interest in going down the same path in future, but Ankara should not become a full member of the bloc too quickly.

August 31- British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw says the EU should open membership talks with Turkey to promote the "universal values of liberal democracy, human rights and tolerance."

September 02- The Netherlands Foreign Minister Bernard Bot, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, says that accession negotiations with long-time EU aspirant Turkey should start immediately if Ankara meets the 25-nation bloc's criteria.

September 02- German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer says that Turkey will not join the EU for another 10 or 15 years, but advocates the beginning of entry negotiations.

September 06- EU Enlargement Commissioner Guenther Verheugen holds talks with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül on a visit to Turkey. The commissioner, speaking after talks with Gül, urges the EU to deliver a final decision on whether Turkey should start long-delayed accession talks at a December summit.

September 09- Foreign Minister Gül says that Turkey is confident it has fulfilled the criteria to be considered for membership in the European Union and hopes to start formal entry talks early next year. "In two year's time, we have carried out big reform packages" Gül, on a six-day swing through the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, drumming up support for Turkey's EU candidacy, says in Estonia.

September 10- Turkey's plan to outlaw adultery could become an obstacle to its European Union entry, incoming EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn is quoted as saying. "This legislation has generally been considered as going against the European judicial practice. It will certainly become an obstacle if Turkey will actively pursue it", says Rehn.

September 10- Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis expresses Greece's support for Turkey's bid to join the European Union and the efforts being made by its government to meet membership conditions.

September 13- Turkey has made significant progress on reforms to prepare itself for membership of the European Union but must do more to implement

standards required by the bloc, European Commission spokesman Jean Christopher Filori says.

September 16- Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu strongly rejects allegations of widespread torture in Turkey. "Our slogan is 'zero-tolerance' for torture, I am very disturbed about talk of 'systematic torture' in our country" Aksu says.

September 17- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder says that the EU should keep its promise to Turkey which was made some 40 years ago for its anticipation in the EU. His comments appear as the first rejection to German main opposition leader Angela Merkel who had written to leaders of other European centre-right parties in an effort to galvanise opposition to Turkish membership in the EU.

September 19- The top EU official for enlargement in a strongly worded warning yesterday said that his commission would not say "yes" to the start of Turkish membership talks with the EU unless Ankara reversed a delay in reforming the TCK prior to the release of a key commission report on October 6.

September 21- Foreign ministers of Turkey and Greece agree to cancel military manoeuvres scheduled to take place in the eastern Mediterranean this year in a further step to build trust between the two former foes. The deal comes at a meeting between Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and his Greek counterpart Petros Moliviatis in New York, on the sidelines of UN General Assembly meetings.

September 21- EU Commission President Romano Prodi says that the EU could urge Turkey to reopen its border gate with Armenia as a condition for its eventual membership of the bloc.

September 21- A top cardinal at the Vatican Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger says that the underlying foundations of the EU were based on Christianity and claimed that Turkey's admission into the EU would be a grave mistake.

September 24- The European Commission's next chief says the end to the row with Turkey over an adultery ban was positive, but stopped short of saying the country should be cleared for accession talks next month. Jose Manuel Durao Barroso said he was positive about Turkish EU membership, provided the country lived up to all the criteria on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

September 24- EU Enlargement Commissioner Guenter Verheugen struck an upbeat note after talks with Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan in Brussels, saying he was now confident that "systematic torture" in Turkey was a thing of the past.

September 24- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül said European leaders would decide at a December summit meeting to launch entry talks with Turkey without delay or extra conditions.

September 25- German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer says that Turkey's accession would make a positive contribution to the European Union's security. "It appeared after Sept. 11, 2001, clearly, how much a European Turkey is important for our security", Fischer is quoted as saying.

September 28- Turkish health authorities say they were investigating whether blood products imported from Britain could have been contaminated with the human form of mad-cow disease, otherwise known as bovine spongiform ecephalopathy (BSE).

September 30- A crisis between Ankara and Brussels over the way the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) should be represented at a joint meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and European Union was threatening the forum. Officials say there was no compromise on the dispute, with the Turkish side insisting that the KKTC should be represented as endorsed by the OIC at the meeting. The Dutch Presidency looks set to propose to EU member countries not to attend the joint forum.

October 01- Turkey decides to cancel a joint forum of the European Union and Muslim nations after failing to find a compromise solution to a dispute over the way the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) should be represented.

October 02- The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) express regret over the weekend that a planned meeting with the European Union had been cancelled after objections from the EU side to the way Turkish Cypriots would attend the meeting. "The OIC, which has embraced dialogue among civilisations... can only express its utmost regret for the cancellation of this meeting that was expected to deepen dialogue and reinforce understanding among the two parties", a statement issued from OIC headquarters in Jeddah.

October 09- Germany's President Horst Koehler defends open-ended accession talks between Turkey and the European Union, warning what has been achieved in Europe so far could be otherwise jeopardised.

October 10- Turkish Chief Consulate diplomats are to appear before a court in France today due to an appeal from the Campaign for the Recognition of the Armenian Genocide of France (CDCA- France). CDCA-France appealed to the Paris Court in July because the Chief Consulate denied the so-called Armenian genocide on its official internet site.

October 13- Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt says that Belgium wants Turkey to open membership negotiations with the European Union next year despite vocal opposition to the plan within the country and in some other EU nations.

October 13- German Federal Interior Minister Otto Schily says that he was pleased by the extradition of Islamic militant Metin Kaplan to Turkey, adding that he believed Kaplan would have a fair trial here.

October 13- Germany's conservative opposition appears divided over a plan to launch a petition against Turkish EU membership.

October 14- British Prime Minister Tony Blair says he was confident that Turkey would meet the European Union's criteria for membership and pledged a "yes" vote when EU leaders meet in mid-December to decide whether or not long-delayed accession talks should start with Ankara.

October 14- Former deputy Leyla Zana addresses European lawmakers in Brussels and calls for dialogue between cultures and urged Turkish authorities to remove all restrictions on the Kurdish language. Zana, received the European Union's top human rights prize, the Sakharov Prize from the European Parliament in Brussels.

October 15- Germany's conservative opposition leader abandons the idea of launching a petition drive against Turkey's entry into the European Union.

October 18- EU High Commissioner for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana defends Turkey's accession into the bloc saying it would bring security to Europe.

October 19- Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson says that his country supports Turkey's membership in the EU as long as it meets entry requirements.

October 20- Greek Foreign Ministry Spokesman Georgeou Kumucakhos says that Athens had officially complained to Turkey over what he said were violations of Greek air space and territorial waters by Turkish war planes and coast guard vessels. Turkish officials denied the accusations, saying that they stemmed from a 10-mile airspace claim by Greece despite international law dictating six miles.

October 25- Prince Charles, speaking at the re-opening ceremony of the British Consulate in Istanbul, says last years suicide attacks, which also targeted and devastated the consulate building, had brought Muslims, Jews and Christians closer together rather than dividing them.

October 25- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül sends a letter to his Dutch counterpart Bernard Bot and EU's Enlargement Commissioner Guenther Verheugen expressing Turkey's concerns over certain proposals of the commission's October 6 recommendation, including the well-known suggestion that talks be an "open-ended" process whose outcome cannot be guaranteed.

October 26- Greece says it is protesting a recent increase in air and sea violations by the Turkish military, saying Ankara's behaviour could damage its drive to start European Union entry talks.

October 28- Spanish Foreign Minister Miquel Angel Moratinos and British Foreign Minister Jack Straw confirm their support for Turkey's European Union quest and said EU leaders at a December 17 summit should set a date for the opening of entry talks with Turkey.

November 02- A delegation of German Greens Party members, headed by the party's Co-chairperson Claudia Roth, meet with top government officials and human rights organisations to discuss the human rights situation in Turkey. German Greens, a staunch supporter of Turkey's bid to join the European Union, meet with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül in Ankara.

November 03- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül secures EU-member Portugal's backing during his visit to Lisbon as part of Ankara's lobbying efforts to get the green light from the 25-nation bloc during a December EU summit to begin membership negotiations. Gül meets with Portuguese officials, including his counterpart, Antonio Monteiro, and Parliament Speaker Mota Amaral in Lisbon.

November 07- Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero says he supports Turkey's eventual membership in the European Union but noted that it will take a long time.

November 08- German Ambassador Wolf Ruthart Born attends a traditional Alawite ceremony at an Ankara Hüseyin Gazi Cemevi, a religious gathering place for Alawis.

November 12- Slovak Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan says the Slovak Parliament will at the end of this month discuss whether to approve the start of European Union talks with Turkey and added that he hoped his EU member country would back Ankara's bid to join the bloc.

November 15- Socialist, Green and Liberal parliamentarians attack a Turkey report prepared by Dutch rapporteur Camiel Eurlings, saying it failed to sufficiently note the reforms undertaken by Turkey and fell short of giving a clear message in support of beginning long-delayed accession talks between the European Union and Turkey.

November 18- Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende says Turkey's Muslim identity would not be a barrier to the candidate country's admission to the European Union.

November 19- Lawyer for the Turkish Muslim villagers in Northern Greece who complained to a court that a Greek TV team insulted their religion, says there was no doubt that the team acted disrespectfully since the actresses were half-naked in a mosque.

November 21- Under the banner "Hand in Hand Against Terror," more than 25,000 Turkish immigrants and Germans march through Germany's fourth largest city of Cologne to condemn violence by and against Muslims.

November 28- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says the European Union will be incomplete until Turkey is allowed admission. "The decision the EU will make on December 17, will declare whether the union is the home of compromise among civilisations or just a Christian club", Erdoğan says.

December 07- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Turkey expected the EU summit to make three things clear: First, membership; second, the start of negotiations without a second decision; and third, issues on which Turkey has political sensitivities should not be raised.

December 08- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül, who expressed Turkey's objections to visiting Dutch Minister Atzo Nicolai, said recognition of Greek Cyprus was out of the question before a settlement took place on the island and he was set to deliver that message to EU officials when he met with them later.

December 10- The EU agreed on two changes to the text of a draft statement for the December 17 summit. The changes are the omission of any mention of Turkey "joining the European community of values" and of the EU's "capacity to absorb new members while maintaining the momentum of European integration". Both statements have irritated Ankara, which considers the phrases to be paving the way for proposals of non-membership alternatives.

December 11- The Dutch presidency of the EU said on Thursday that it was sure it could resolve a dispute over recognition of the Greek Cypriot administration before the December 17 summit.

December 15- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül issued a thinly veiled warning that European leaders would be making a serious mistake if they turned a blind eye to Turkey's objections and offered the candidate country a prospect that fell short of full membership.

December 16- Defying pressure from EU counterparts, Turkish government leaders attending decisive talks in Brussels stood firm on rejecting what they saw as a "concession" by extending any form of recognition to the Greek Cypriot administration. But the EU presidency announced that the Union expected Turkey to sign a protocol extending its 1963 Association Agreement to Greek Cyprus by the time the talks start.

December 16- EU leaders reached an agreement to offer Turkey, October 03 as a start date for the long-delayed accession talks, saying that the aim of the talks would be Turkey's membership. They agreed, though, that the negotiations would be open-ended.

December 16- Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos declined to rule a veto in or out; however, he appeared isolated in the EU with most members furious at Greek Cypriot rejection of a UN peace plan in April 2004 and in no position to frustrate the general will.

December 17- The European Union and Turkey struck a deal to start talks next year on admitting the vast Muslim nation to the bloc after last-minute haggling over Ankara's relationship with EU member Cyprus. The 25 EU leaders agreed to open membership negotiations with Turkey on October 3, 2005, but they said talks would be open-ended with no guaranteed outcome.

December 18- Turkey was divided into two camps with one group proclaiming the membership agreement was a victory, while the other unreservedly criticised it.

December 18- "We stand at a point where we are reaping the rewards of our efforts of the last 41 years", a satisfied Erdoğan told a press conference following the end of the two-day Brussels summit.

December 19- Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Deniz Baykal said that the expression "the negotiations are open-ended" was unacceptable. Qualifying the expression as discreditable, Baykal added it also created a sense of uncertainty. Baykal said it is not only up to Turkey to determine whether the negotiations will end successfully or unsuccessfully; it is also up to the European Union. In the event of such an expression being accepted, we would be accepted as only a relation of the EU without full membership if negotiations result negatively because of factors related to the EU itself.

December 31- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has said the start of Turkey's accession negotiations with the European Union would make a positive impact on the German economy.

II. CYPRUS ISSUE AND THE ANNAN PLAN

January 02- US President George W. Bush sends a letter to Greek Premier Costas Simitis, saying that 2004 offers Cyprus a window of opportunity to reunite the divided island.

January 05- Mehmet Ali Talat, leader of the Turkish Cypriot Republican Turks' Party (CTP), which backs the Annan plan for re-unification of Cyprus, says he will seek talks with other parties on forming a coalition after failing to reach a deal with his first-choice partner, the National Unity Party (UBP).

January 10- Two Turkish Cypriot parties, the Republican Turks' Party (CTP) of Mehmet Ali Talat and the Democratic Party (DP) of Serdar Denktaş, say that they

have agreed to form a two-party coalition government in a move that could pave the way for a resumption of talks on reuniting the divided Mediterranean island.

January 12- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş appears to ease his outright opposition to the Annan plan to reunite Cyprus, saying efforts are under way to make it acceptable to Turkish Cypriots.

January 13- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş approves a coalition cabinet headed by Mehmet Ali Talat, leader of the CTP, which supports a speedy return to stalled Cyprus reunification talks. Denktaş's son Serdar will be foreign minister and deputy prime minister in the new Cabinet.

January 19- Greece and Cyprus reject a demand by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to hold a referendum on his plan to reunify the island before Greek and Turkish Cypriots reach agreement on all points of the proposal.

January 19- Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat says the government will work in harmony with President Denktaş to achieve a Cyprus settlement on the basis of the UN plan by May and that they will hold a referendum on the settlement plan at a mutually agreed-upon date with the Greek Cypriot side.

January 20- Greek Cypriots say it would be difficult to forge a reunification deal on the island as long as Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş is in power.

January 21- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan says he would resume talks over Cyprus if Greek and Turkish rivals are ready to settle the festering conflict.

January 22- The US State Department special co-ordinator for Cyprus, Thomas Weston, meets with Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Uğur Ziyal and delivers a message from US President George W. Bush to Prime Minister Erdoğan. According to reports, Bush wants a solution on Cyprus before the NATO summit in Istanbul in June, so that he can announce an agreement during his summit statement.

January 23- The National Security Council (MGK) meets in Ankara to review Turkey's efforts on changes Ankara wants to see in a UN plan for a Cyprus settlement, announcing hours later in a written statement that Turkey wants a speedy resumption of the Cyprus talks within the framework of the "goodwill mission" of the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. "A consensus has been reached on the need and necessity of the resumption of the Cyprus talks," the statement says.

January 24- After a meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Davos, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says he has asked Annan to appoint a mediator trusted by both sides to resolve the Cyprus dispute.

January 26- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says that Greek Cypriots must make the next move in trying to end the decades-old division of Cyprus after the Turkish side agreed to a resumption of peace talks.

January 26- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş says that it would be difficult for Turkish and Greek Cypriots to reunify the divided island of Cyprus by a May deadline, when Cyprus is due to join the EU, despite mounting international pressure.

January 27- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says Turkey favours a referendum on the divided island of Cyprus on the basic principles of a UN peace plan, but says other thorny issues can be resolved later.

January 28- Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos says that his government is ready immediately to re-open negotiations on the reunification of the island on the basis of a UN peace plan.

January 29- US Secretary of State Colin Powell, in a meeting in Washington with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül, assures Turkey that the United States would make every effort to resolve the Cyprus dispute based on a plan proposed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. But he says the United States would not be a mediator in the negotiations.

February 03- New talks on the reunification of Cyprus could resume soon, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan says after meeting US President George W. Bush in Washington. Annan says he has spoken in recent days with all interested parties but one, Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, about reviving negotiations.

February 04- Secretary-General Kofi Annan invites the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to New York on February 10 for resumption of talks on reunifying Cyprus, a UN statement says.

February 04- Turkish Cypriot leaders, including President Rauf Denktaş and Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat, arrive in Ankara for "synchronisation" talks ahead of the resumption of Cyprus talks in New York.

February 06- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş announces that he will go to New York after receiving an invitation from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to attend renewed Cyprus talks there but says this does not mean that he accepts Annan's terms.

February 10- Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş meet in New York under the auspices of the United Nations for a meeting in search of a deal to unify the island before it joins the European Union on May 1.

February 11- Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders meet for a second round of talks on a UN plan to reunite the island before it joins the EU in May.

February 13- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announces a breakthrough, saying the two leaders have agreed to return to talks on terms laid down by the United Nations on February 19 in Nicosia, Cyprus.

February 13- The EU Commission announces that it is not seeking an official role in UN-brokered negotiations on reuniting Cyprus and would only accept such a role if it were acceptable to all sides.

February 17- UN envoy Alvaro de Soto says the UN has no fallback option if its Cyprus reunification plan is rejected by Greek or Turkish Cypriots in votes before the island joins the European Union in May. "We do not have a plan B, nor are we thinking about scenarios about what will happen," he told after meeting EU Enlargement Commissioner Guenther Verheugen in Brussels.

February 17- Greece is ready to reduce its forces in Cyprus if the island is reunited under a UN-sponsored deal, Greek Defence Minister Yiannos Papantoniou says.

February 24- The third session of Cyprus talks at the UN offices in the Nicosia buffer zone is marred by tension over Greek Cypriot plans to purchase long-range missiles and ads inviting Turkish Cypriots to register in southern Cyprus for the June European Parliament polls, as Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos walks out of the meeting without shaking hands with either Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş or UN envoy Alvaro de Soto.

February 25- Prime Minister Erdoğan says the Turkish Cypriots will remain at the negotiating table up until the end and that it will be up to the Greek Cypriots whether they want to terminate the talks or not.

February 26- Cyprus reunification talks are postponed for a day after Greek Cypriots say they need time to study new proposals fielded by Turkish Cypriots on a UN peace plan.

February 29- The United States will donate generously towards Cyprus's reunification costs if an accord is reached between its two sides, US special coordinator for Cyprus, Thomas Weston, says.

March 01- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş says Greek Cypriot leaders has rejected all the proposals he has made since UN-brokered peace talks on reuniting the island resumed.

March 02- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş sharply criticises the Annan plan for reuniting Cyprus, saying it would spell the end for Turkish Cypriots. "If the Annan Plan is accepted without change Turkish Cypriots will be destroyed", Denktaş tells reporters.

March 02- The deputy secretary-general of the United Nations Sir Kieran Prendergast arrives in Cyprus to join reunification talks that appears to be stalling despite increased international involvement.

March 03- The Greek Cypriots would only represent their southern part of the island in the European Union if they say "no" in a referendum to a UN peace plan, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw says.

March 03- US State Department Co-ordinator for Cyprus Thomas Weston meets with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and senior bureaucrats of the ministry in Ankara. Turkish officials say in talks with Weston that Ankara and Athens should send their prime ministers or foreign ministers to new round of talks if the Cypriot leaders fail to reach an agreement in their ongoing talks by March 21 in order to be better able to push for solution.

March 04- Thousands of Turks waving red and white Turkish and Turkish Cypriot flags, welcome Rauf Denктаş upon his arrival in Ankara to address a conference about Cyprus. In his speech, Denктаş says he would quit as negotiator and campaign against a UN plan to reunify Cyprus if it fails to include the changes he demands.

March 05- Alvaro de Soto, the United Nations envoy overseeing Cyprus peace talks arrives in Ankara for talks with Turkish officials and says that it may be difficult for the two sides to clinch a deal in the next two weeks but hopes Turkey and Greece will help push the process forward.

March 08- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says he hopes Greece's new government would strengthen UN-backed peace talks on divided Cyprus and that he will visit Athens to seek Greek co-operation for a deal.

March 10- The Turkish Foreign Ministry accuses the Greek Cypriots of not wanting to reach an agreement in difficult Cyprus reunification talks as a month-end deadline looms.

March 10- Greece's new Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis sends out a message of hope about stalled talks to reunify Cyprus saying Greece's new government fully backs a UN peace plan and believes it is too soon to say negotiations have failed. Molyviatis also says the UN plan to reunify Cyprus is binding and must not be watered down or its timetable altered.

March 16- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denктаş says he will not attend a next round of UN-backed reunification talks that are to include Greece and Turkey and due to start next week in Switzerland, but insists he is not abandoning the negotiating table.

March 24- Foreign ministers of Turkey and Greece, Abdullah Gül and Petros Moliviatis, meet in the Swiss mountain resort of Buergenstock to join Turkish and

Greek Cypriot leaders talks on a United Nations plan for the reunification of Cyprus before the island joins the European Union.

March 25- The European Union's enlargement commissioner Guenter Verheugen blames veteran Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş for the lack of progress in crucial talks for reuniting Cyprus and says he believes that "Denktaş is still representing the majority of the Turkish Cypriots".

March 25- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan meets EU Enlargement Commissioner Guenter Verheugen in Brussels, on the sidelines of an EU summit, and discuss Turkish demands for permanent derogations from EU laws in Cyprus. "

March 28- Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül has phoned US Secretary of State Colin Powell for help in ending peace talks and to press for Turkey's case in the ongoing talks, Turkish diplomatic sources say. Powell tells Gül that the US understands Turkey's concerns and pledges to talk to UN officials on the matter.

March 29- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan arrives in Buergenstock, Switzerland to attend negotiations to reunify Cyprus involving Cypriot leaders and his Greek counterpart Kostas Karamanlis. Erdoğan arrives as boosted by his party's landslide victory in nation-wide local elections that strengthened his government's hand in negotiations.

March 29- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan reveals his latest plan for the reunification of Cyprus, promising the sides a "win-win" deal. The 220-page document, accompanied by 9.000 pages of annexes, is handed to the parties at a ceremony in the mountain resort of Buergenstock, Switzerland.

March 30- The European Commission gives a provisional green light to a proposed Cyprus peace settlement, saying the latest plan could be accommodated within EU law if it is agreed.

March 31- Greece believes the chances for an agreed Cyprus peace deal on the last day of negotiations before UN Secretary General Kofi Annan starts filling in the remaining gaps are poor, Greek government spokesman Theodoris Rousopoulos says.

April 05- The National Security Council (MGK) expresses concern about the latest version of a UN plan to end the 30-year division of the island of Cyprus, saying it does not fully meet Turkey's expectations and emphasising that the plan should be enshrined in EU law, but leaving the final word to the government.

April 05- Turkey will demand international recognition for the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) if the Greek Cypriot south rejects a UN peace

plan for the reunification of the island in an April 24 referendum, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül is quoted as saying.

April 07- Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos rejects a United Nations plan for the reunification of island. "I call on the people to vote against approval of the plan in the referendum on April 24 with a strong no," Papadopoulos says in a televised speech.

April 07- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş says he will seek a 'no' vote in an April 24 referendum on a UN accord to reunite Cyprus.

April 08- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is disappointed that Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders have rejected his plan to reunite the divided island, a statement from the United Nations says.

April 08- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says the international community will have no option but to recognise the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) and lift the embargo on it if Turkish Cypriots approve a UN peace plan and Greek Cypriots reject it in April 24 referendum.

April 10- The largest Greek Cypriot political party, communist AKEL, says it will not give its blessing to a UN reunification plan for Cyprus unless the United Nations postpones for a "few months" a planned referendum on April 24 on it.

April 10- Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat says any delay to the April 24 referendum on the UN reunification plan for Cyprus would be unacceptable. Talat says, any delay will cause Greek Cypriots to represent the whole island in the EU after May 1, I see it as very dangerous for Turkish Cypriot interests.

April 11- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan criticises Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş and tells him to move his campaign against a UN plan for reunification of the Turkish and Greek Cypriot sides of the island out of Turkey.

April 12- The United States warns Greek and Turkish Cypriots that it sees no alternative to the UN plan to reunify the island and makes no promises to craft a new settlement if they reject the deal.

April 13- Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat crosses to the Greek Cypriot side of the island in a trip and meets with leaders of major Greek Cypriot parties in an effort to convince them to support the UN plan for reunification of the island in an April 24 referendum.

April 13- Greek Cypriot Communications Minister Kikis Kazamias announces that he has resigned over Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos's rejection of a United Nations reunification plan for the island.

April 14- Turkey's business groups, including the TUSIAD and Istanbul Chamber of Industry, throw their weight behind a UN plan for reuniting Cyprus.

taking out a full-page advertisement in national newspapers to urge Turkish Cypriots to back the blueprint.

April 15- Greek Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis says Greece backs the UN plan to unite Cyprus in an April 24 referendum, saying there are more positives than negatives for the island's future in the European Union.

April 15- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says Turkey will launch a world-wide campaign for the recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) if Greek Cypriots reject a UN plan to reunify the island in a referendum.

April 15- Azerbaijan's President İlham Aliyev says his country would lead international efforts towards recognition of the KKTC if Greek Cypriots vote "no" and Turkish Cypriots say "yes" in the April 24 referendum on reunification of Cyprus.

April 15- The United States will not "leave the Turkish Cypriots out in the cold" if they vote to reunify Cyprus in an April 24 referendum and Greek Cypriots reject this, US State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher says.

April 16- The UN Security Council says it is ready to establish a new operation on Cyprus should Greek and Turkish Cypriots approve a reunification plan for the island. After a meeting, the council also welcomes the results of a pre-donors conference held in Brussels, Belgium, a day ago that saw the United States pledge \$400 million toward relocation and compensation costs in the event of a reunification.

April 21- Russia uses its veto in the UN Security Council to block a resolution drafted by Britain pledging new UN security arrangements in Cyprus if both the Greek and Turkish Cypriots vote in favour of reunification this week. Russian Ambassador Gennady Gatilov says his country sees the resolution, on the table four days before Cypriots vote, as an attempt to influence the outcome of the referenda.

April 22- The largest Greek Cypriot political party, AKEL, announces it maintains its opposition against the UN plan to unite with the island's Turkish Cypriots because the United Nations has not provided guarantees it wanted on security.

April 22- The European Union's High Commissioner for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana makes clear that the EU's relations with Cyprus will change if Turkish Cypriots vote "yes" for reunification and Greek Cypriots vote "no".

April 24- Greek and Turkish Cypriots vote on a UN plan to reunite Cyprus in a referendum, with Turkish Cypriots voting 64.9 percent in favour of the plan and Greek Cypriots voting 75.8 percent against. The plan becomes "null and void" after the Greek Cypriot rejection.

April 24- Turkey's leaders call for an end to international isolation against Turkish Cypriots after they voted in favour of a UN-plan to reunite the divided island.

April 24- EU Enlargement Commissioner Guenter Verheugen describes Greek Cypriots' rejection of the UN reunification plan as "tragic" and says the deal they turned down was "the best possible result".

April 24- Veteran Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktas says he will not resign despite a solid "yes" vote by Turkish Cypriots to the reunification plan that he opposed. "If the Annan plan had been accepted I would have resigned. But it was not accepted so there is no need for me to do so", he tells reporters.

April 24- The United States says it is disappointed that a majority of Greek Cypriots have voted to kill a UN-backed plan to end 30 years of partition.

April 24- The United Nations announces it is shutting its Cyprus peace envoy office after Greek Cypriots rejected the plan to reunify with Turkish Cypriots.

April 25- The Greek Cypriot government will work to alleviate the isolation of Turkish Cypriots and ensure they benefit from the island's accession to the European Union this week, Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos says.

April 26- In a meeting of foreign ministers in Luxembourg, the European Union pledges € 259 millions in aid to Turkish Cypriots who saw their chance for EU membership evaporate when Greek Cypriots rejected reunification.

April 26- Ahead of meeting with EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg, Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou says he would encourage the EU ministers to give northern Cyprus as much aid as the union can afford after the collapse of the UN reunification plan.

April 26- Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat says he has written to Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, whose country is holding the EU presidency, formally asking that Cyprus' EU membership be temporarily suspended following Greek Cypriot rejection of a UN plan to reunify the island. He asks the EU laws not to apply to the Greek Cypriot south until the island is reunified.

April 26- Washington accuses Greek Cypriot leaders of manipulating public opinion by restricting the media and having teachers push a "no" vote to ensure a weekend referendum to reunite Cyprus fail.

April 27- Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos angrily condemns US State Department accusations that his government has manipulated public opinion to ensure a rejection of a UN reunification plan for the island in the April 24 referendum.

April 28- Meeting in Brussels, European Union envoys agree on a deal to ease the economic isolation of Turkish northern Cyprus after Greek Cypriots voted to

reject a UN plan to reunite the island before it joins the EU. Ambassadors agree after a several-hour meeting to allow all goods produced in northern Cyprus to cross the "green line" demarcation strip dividing Cyprus.

April 29- The UN Security Council issues a statement expressing disappointment that Cypriots missed "an extraordinary and historic opportunity" to reunify their divided island and reiterates its strong support for a political settlement.

April 29- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says that a withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus is out of the question after Greek Cypriots voted down a plan to reunify the island.

April 30- Prime Minister Erdoğan telephones US President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin to ask for support for the Turkish Cypriots after the Greek Cypriots voted down a referendum to reunite the divided island.

May 03- Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat leaves for the United States for a groundbreaking meeting with US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

May 04- Powell promises a range of economic and diplomatic gestures as a reward for supporting a UN plan for reuniting the island. Powell says the Bush administration soon will announce the US assistance package, which would be designed to ease the Turkish Cypriot state's isolation in the international community.

May 19- Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis meets with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and urges him to make the reunification of Cyprus a priority so Turkish as well as Greek Cypriots can benefit from "the fruits" of EU membership.

May 26- The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) authorities waive passport requirements for Greek Cypriots, allowing them to cross to the Turkish side of the island with only their identity cards.

May 26- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül meets Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat and Foreign Minister Serdar Denktaş in Ankara ahead of a Turkish Cypriot diplomatic campaign to boost international support for efforts to end their state's economic and political isolation.

May 26- The United States says it views Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat as leader of the Turkish Cypriots.

May 27- Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktaş rebukes the United States for deciding to bypass him and recognise Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat as leader of the Turkish Cypriots. "The United States should stop acting like a cowboy", Denktaş says of the US State Department decision and added "they are trying to appoint a sheriff here",

May 28- Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary-General Abdelvahid Belkeziz takes a flight from Ankara to the Turkish Republic of Northern

Cyprus (KKTC), becoming the first top official of an international organisation to enter Turkish Cyprus directly, instead of the customary practice of passing through the internationally-recognised Greek Cyprus.

June 02- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urges the world to end the isolation of Turkish Cypriots as a reward for their support for a UN plan to reunify the island. Annan, in two back-to-back reports to the UN Security Council on the failed plan, praises the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey for having supported it and accused Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos of having distorted it to bring about its defeat.

June 03- Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos shrugs off criticism from the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, saying Annan has made numerous mistakes in his report to the Security Council on the failure to reunite the island.

June 11- The UN Security Council approves a resolution extending the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus for six months and backs a review of its mandate following the rejection of a UN plan to reunify the island and its entry into the European Union.

June 16- At the closing of their three-day meeting in Istanbul, OIC foreign ministers issue a statement calling on the member countries to extend co-operation with Turkish Cypriots in a variety of fields and improving the level of Turkish Cypriot representation within the organisation, a major step in the direction of ending an international isolation of Turkish Cypriots.

July 01- Greek Cypriots should be given a deadline to accept a UN peace plan for Cyprus or the international community should recognise the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) as a separate state, Turkish Cypriot Foreign Minister Serdar Denktaş says.

July 07- Prime Minister Erdoğan says the EU Commission's proposed measures to end the economic isolation is an outcome that Turkey had expected.

July 08- The United States will give Turkish Cypriots \$ 30 millions this year to ease the economic isolation in the north of the divided island and to reward their reunification efforts.

July 16- The United States welcomes a proposal by Greek Cyprus for a limited military withdrawal from the cease-fire line dividing the island.

July 26- Turkish Foreign Ministry criticises in a statement the EU for not approving a set of measures allowing direct trade with Turkish Cypriots despite promises made after they supported a reunification plan that their international isolation would be ended.

August 20- EU regulations governing trade between Greek and Turkish Cypriots are published in the Union's Official Journal, the bloc's representative office in Cyprus announces. The rules, adopted by the European Commission, provide for trade across the island's "Green Line", including goods originating in the Turkish Cypriot northern part of Cyprus.

August 26- The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) has decided to lift a ban on Greek Cypriot exports to the north of the island, a week after the EU Green Line regulations that foresee start of trade relations between the two sides on the island went into effect.

August 30- The Committee for Missing Persons in Cyprus, a tripartite committee comprising representatives from Turkish Cypriots, Greek Cypriots and the United Nations holds its first meeting in Ledra Palace Hotel in the UN-controlled demarcation zone in the island after a four-year interval. The committee discusses efforts to find and identify bodies of an estimated 2.000 people who disappeared during ethnic clashes on the island prior to and during the 1974 Turkish intervention.

September 11- Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat criticises the European Union for failing to end the enclave's economic isolation.

September 29- The Turkish Cypriot prime minister dismisses statements by a Greek Cypriot minister that Chechen militants were trained in the north of the island as "products of paranoid thoughts".

September 29- United Nations peacekeeping troops in Cyprus should be cut back by about a third because fresh fighting on the Mediterranean island is unlikely, says UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

October 04- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts a resolution which allows Turkish Cypriot parliamentarians to participate in all of its sessions. The decision comes a day before Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's scheduled address to the General Assembly in Strasbourg. The Council of Europe Secretary-General Walter Schwimmer said the decision did not mean recognition of the Turkish Cypriot state, while Turkish Cypriot deputy Özdil Nami says that the move was a positive step for removing the isolation of Turkish Cyprus.

October 20- The Turkish Cypriot government resigns following the failure of its months-long quest to forge a new coalition, raising early election prospects amid efforts to end the international isolation of the Turkish Cypriots.

October 30- Pope John Paul II tells the Greek Cypriot President that dialogue and tolerance were key to resolving tensions and promoting unity on the divided island. "I encourage you and your fellow citizens in your ongoing efforts to foster dialogue and tolerance among the diverse ethnic and religious groups in your country", the pope says in remarks to President Tassos Papadopoulos.

November 14- The Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) celebrates the 21st anniversary of its founding on Sunday in ceremonies held all over the north of the island and in Turkish Cypriot representations around the world.

November 24- Presiding over the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) committee meeting held in Istanbul, President Ahmet Necdet Sezer urges Muslim countries to take more concrete steps to help ending the international isolation of Turkish Cypriots.

December 03- Turkish Cypriot leaders, President Rauf Denktaş, Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Talat and Foreign Minister Serdar Denktaş, held consultations with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül in Ankara on what strategy to pursue in the run-up to the December 17 summit.

December 03- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer said the demand to recognise Greek Cyprus is unjust since Turkey supported a vote on the divided island earlier this year, when Turkish Cypriots voted in favour of a U.N.-sponsored reunification plan that was rejected by the Greek Cypriots.

December 18- Prime Minister Erdoğan emphasised that to recognition of Greek Cyprus, describing the amendment of the 1963 Association Agreement to the 10 new members as a technical step.

December 31- The opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) has called on the United States to help end the international isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, saying prospects for the European Union contributing to the process were slim. "Washington could allow a US plane to land at a Turkish Cypriot airport or a ship to dock in a Turkish Cypriot seaport. ... Then the Greek Cypriot administration would think twice about the solution" said Onur Öymen.

III. RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

January 09- The United States has asked Turkey to allow the US military to use İncirlik Air Base in southern Anatolia for rotating thousands of troops and equipment in and out of Iraq.

January 12- The rotation of US troops in Iraq through Turkey's southern İncirlik Air Base started and is expected to involve transit passage of some 120.000 US troops in the next four months.

January 13- The US State Department says it has amended its designation of the group formerly known as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) as a "foreign terrorist organisation" to reflect its newly adopted names. In a statement, the State Department says it has added the group's new names, the Kurdistan People's Congress

(KHK), the People's Congress of Kurdistan and the acronym KONGRA-GEL to its designation of the PKK as a foreign terrorist group.

January 13- Opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Deniz Baykal criticises the government for allowing the United States to use İncirlik Air Base for rotation of its Iraq troops and says the permission, given without approval from Parliament, is against the Constitution.

January 28- US President George W. Bush meets with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in the White House and gives him assurances that the United States does not support an expansion of autonomy for Kurds in Iraq.

February 25- The US State Department releases its annual human rights report. According to the report, there have been improvements in Turkey's human rights situation and the government has in general respected the human rights of its citizens, although several serious problems remained in Turkey under the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) government during 2003.

March 11- Ambassador Ron Neumann, an official of the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, holds talks in Turkish Foreign Ministry to ease Ankara's concerns over Iraq's new interim constitution, which Ankara has criticised for not recognising Turkmens' political rights and giving increased political influence for Kurdish groups running northern Iraq.

March 23- The United States lifts a warning for US citizens to avoid nonessential travel to Turkey issued after a series of suicide attacks blamed on al-Qaeda in Istanbul last November. The decision to lift the warning comes after a "reassessment of the security situation in Turkey", US officials say.

April 05- Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force General John P. Jumper hold talks with Turkish Air Forces commander General İbrahim Fırtına during a visit.

May 09- Some 8.000 people rally in downtown Istanbul to protest the US-led occupation of Iraq and the abuse of Iraqi prisoners there, burning US President George W. Bush in effigy.

May 14- Turkey cancels three major joint defence projects for tanks, attack helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles, dashing hopes of US, Israeli and other foreign firms that hoped to win stakes in the multi-billion dollar tenders.

May 17- The US State Department releases its annual human rights country report and says that in part the Turkish government has generally respected the human rights of its citizens, although deficiencies in a number of areas, such as continued torture, remain.

May 24- Transportation Minister Binali Yıldırım meets with visiting US Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta in Istanbul and the two discuss possibilities for direct US flights to Turkish Cypriot Ercan Airport. Yıldırım says to press after meeting that the US side is receptive towards the idea and that talks on the issue are still going on.

May 27- The United States has made certain requests concerning its rights to benefit from certain bases in Turkey and talks are still underway between US and Turkish authorities.

May 27- The US State Department issues a travel warning, telling US citizens that there may be large-scale anti-American protests at the time of a NATO summit meeting in Istanbul in late June.

June 04- Washington is planning to shift an estimated 72 F-16 jet fighters from their bases in Germany to İncirlik air base in southern Turkey.

June 05- A Turkish newspaper reports that some 20 US troops, accompanied by three Iraqi Kurdish Peshmergas, have crossed the Turkish border and have been detained by Turkish forces, who later placed sacks over their heads in an apparent reprisal for a June 4, 2003 detention of Turkish soldiers in the northern Iraqi city of Sulaymaniya. But the General Staff issues a statement denying the report saying that it was only a meeting, not a detention.

June 08- Prime Minister Erdoğan warns that the success of US President George W. Bush's Broader Middle East and North Africa Project depends on resolving conflicts in Iraq and between Israel and the Palestinians.

June 09- Prime Minister Erdoğan attends US-hosted G-8 talks in Sea Island, Georgia to discuss a Washington-initiated project to encourage democratisation in the Broader Middle East and North Africa.

June 18- Facing an increasingly daunting challenge in Iraq, the United States is not planning direct military action against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq in the foreseeable future, US Ambassador to Turkey Eric Edelman tells a news conference.

June 20- A Turkish truck driver is shot dead and two other men, one colleague and one Iraqi interpreter, are wounded by US troops after failing to stop at a checkpoint near Baghdad.

June 20- Thousands of demonstrators gather in Istanbul, burning US flags and chanting protest slogans against an upcoming NATO summit and visit by US President George W. Bush.

June 25- US President George W. Bush pledges to work with Turkey and the new Iraqi government against terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants in northern Iraq in an interview.

June 26- Bush arrives in Ankara for a visit before heading to Istanbul for a two-day NATO summit. Turkish police fire tear gas at scores of stone-throwing leftist demonstrators in the capital city hours before the arrival of Bush.

June 26- President Bush calls on the European Union to open accession talks with Turkey.

June 27- Bush holds talks with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during his visit to Ankara. Erdoğan tells Bush that he expects the United States to take action against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) terrorists holed up in northern Iraq and Bush responds by reiterating a pledge to act against the terrorists.

June 27- More than 40.000 demonstrators, some chanting, "USA get out of the Middle East!", gather in a square in Kadıköy, Istanbul to protest against the visit of Bush and the NATO summit.

June 29- Bush defends his push for Middle East democracy against Arab critics who say the United States seeks to impose its views on the region and reiterates strong support for Turkey's bid to join the EU.

August 11- US Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz says Turkey is a very strong ally in the fight against terrorism.

September 03- Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan is quoted as saying in a newspaper interview that Turkey is losing patience with its NATO ally, the United States, over its failure to crack down on outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) terrorists holed up in northern Iraq.

September 10- Turkey calls on the United States to quickly end military operations in the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar, populated by Turkmens, saying the attacks have caused casualties of Turkmen civilians living there. Namik Tan, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, says Turkey has contacted the US military and government officials in Ankara and in Washington.

September 13- US Ambassador to Turkey Eric Edelman holds a meeting with Foreign Ministry's Deputy Under-secretary Ali Tuygan, discussing a US operation in Tal Afar, a northern Iraqi town populated by Turkmens.

September 14- US and Iraqi forces allow civilians to return to Tal Afar, signalling an end to a siege of the northern town that has killed dozens of people.

September 15- Foreign Ministry says Turkey is set to send in a few days an aid package to the Turkmen town of Tal Afar in northern Iraq, after a nearly two-week siege by US-led forces there led to tension between Washington and Ankara.

September 18- US Congressmen from the Greek Cypriot lobby have introduced a bill to the House of Representatives, which, if enacted, would press Turkey to pay compensation to US citizens who are unable to use their property in Turkish Cyprus because of the Turkish military presence there.

September 21- Turkey urges the Iraqi administration to find the perpetrators of an attack on a team of aid workers from the Turkish Red Crescent Society, who were delivering aid to a Turkmen town in northern Iraq hard-hit for several days by a US military operations earlier this month.

September 27- A Turkish Foreign Ministry directive increases the number of ports and airports made available for the US use to bring and transfer weapons.

October 05- US Ambassador Eric Edelman and Foreign Ministry Deputy Under-secretary Nabi Şensoy discuss Turkey's security concerns regarding the presence of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) camped in the northern Iraq and closure of the Makhmur Camp.

October 06- The United States says it was pleased with a recommendation from the European Commission to launch accession talks with Turkey and urged for a quick start to negotiations.

October 16- Turkish associations based in the United States say, in a letter sent to Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry, that they were disappointed by remarks attributed to him that he supported the recognition of the so-called Armenian genocide.

November 05- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says the US presidential victory has provided US President George W. Bush an opportunity in his second term to review and fine-tune his much-criticised foreign policy, particularly on the Middle East and Iraq.

November 09- Turkey has conveyed deep concern to the United States over the potentially disturbing consequences of an assault on the restive Iraqi city of Fallujah, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says.

November 19- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan told US Vice President Dick Cheney that Turkey is perturbed by the US military offensive on the Iraqi city of Fallujah and the fatal shooting of a wounded Iraqi by a US Marine in an Iraqi mosque.

November 23- Gül says he took Turkey's complaints over US slowness in acting to eliminate the presence of a few thousand militants of the outlawed Kurdistan

Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq to Secretary of State Colin Powell at a meeting at Sharm al Sheikh on the sidelines of an international conference on the future of Iraq.

November 29- the US Embassy in Ankara says in a statement that Turkish press reports over the past weeks painted an inaccurate picture of the US and coalition operations in Fallujah. The statement strongly criticised the allegation that the United States was committing genocide in Iraq by calling it ridiculous, baseless, inflammatory and offensive.

December 31- The U.S Embassy is closing its walls with iron curtains due to the security precautions. The local people, who are uncomfortable with the series of security applications of the embassy, after the terrorist attacks to the Double Towers, are collecting signatures and planning to apply the Foreign Ministry.

IV. RELATIONS WITH MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN IRAQ QUESTION

January 03- Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Şahin, Health Minister Recep Akdağ, Public Works Minister Zeki Ergezen and State Minister Kürşat Tüzmen visit Iran's quake-hit city of Bam to express Turkey's condolences and discuss relief efforts following the devastating earthquake.

January 04- Turkey sends four military cargo planes carrying blankets, tents, sleeping bags and other relief for those made homeless by an earthquake in Iran.

January 05- After years of internal debate and tough negotiations with Turkey, the Israeli Cabinet has approved a landmark agreement to purchase 50 million cubic meters of fresh water annually from Turkey's southern Manavgat River for 20 years.

January 06- President Bashar Assad begins a landmark trip to Turkey, the first by a Syrian head of state, aiming to nurture a new warmth between the two countries. Assad meets Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and Chief of General Staff General Hilmi Özkok, as well as opposition leader Deniz Baykal in Ankara.

January 08- Turkey and Syria agree to clear mines from their border areas during talks on the final day of visit to Turkey by Syrian President Bashar Assad.

January 10- Foreign Minister Gül arrives in Iran for a visit to this country after a devastating earthquake in late December. In a joint press conference, Gül and his Iranian counterpart, Kemal Kharrazi, say that Iran and Turkey both oppose the idea of an independent Kurdish state emerging in northern Iraq.

January 13- Iraqi Shiite leader Abdel Aziz al-Hakim, also a member of the Iraqi Governing Council, holds talks with Foreign Minister Gül and Foreign Ministry

officials in Ankara to discuss Iraq's reconstruction and its future political structure, telling Turkish authorities that the Iraqi Shiites are not against a federation in Iraq, although they oppose a federation based on ethnic divisions.

January 14- Berham Salih, a leading member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), presses an Iraqi Kurdish claim to Kirkuk.

January 14- Prime Minister Erdoğan warns to Iraqi Kurds that their moves for broad autonomy in northern Iraq could prompt intervention from the country's neighbours.

January 15- Barham Salih, a leader of the PUK, arrives in Turkey for talks with Turkish officials.

January 16- Deputy Chief of General Staff General İlker Başbuğ says it believes that a federation in Iraq based on ethnic lines will be difficult and bloody.

January 18- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan participates in the Jeddah Economic Forum where he says that Middle Eastern countries have lost trust in each other and until it is restored it will be impossible to achieve any kind of stability in the region.

January 21- Turkish diplomats, US officials, officials from the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Iraqi Governing Council representatives convene in Ankara to discuss the fate of the Mahmour camp in Iraq.

January 22- Prime Minister Erdoğan says he will warn President George W. Bush that Kurdish control of an autonomous ethnic zone in a future Iraqi state would threaten the stability of the country.

January 24- Faruk Abdullah Abdurrahman, leader of the Iraqi Turkmen Front, says that a plan to expand the autonomy of Iraqi Kurds under a federal umbrella threatens to break up the country.

January 24- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül will launch a new initiative to mediate between Israel and Syria, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan says in a news conference at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

January 27- Nechirvan Barzani, the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), says the Kurdish government in northern Iraq's Arbil province would close down the offices of the Peace Monitoring Force, a Turkish-led peacekeeping force deployed in northern Iraq in the last decade, if Ankara does not pull it out voluntarily.

January 29- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says that a premature US departure from Iraq would be unwise because it would deprive the country of the chance of a democratic outcome after many years of dictatorship.

February 01- Suicide bombings against offices of two Iraqi Kurdish groups, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), in the northern Iraqi city of Arbil, kill more than 100 people. Turkish Foreign Ministry issues a statement condemning the attacks.

February 06- Seven Iraqi Kurds wounded in suicide bombing attacks against offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) early in February are brought to Turkey for treatment in Ankara hospitals.

February 09- Barham Saleh, a senior official of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), arrives in Ankara for talks with Turkish officials on the situation in his country and to convey thanks for the assistance Ankara has provided after suicide bombing attacks.

February 11- Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrives in Ankara for talks on the Middle East conflict and Iraq.

February 14- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül arrives in Kuwait for a two-day meeting of foreign ministers of countries neighbouring Iraq and Iraq itself. In his opening address, Gül says Middle Eastern countries should create a regional mechanism of co-operation on security matters, a move that would be similar to what the European Union did in Europe in the post-Second World War era.

February 17- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer meets with Iranian President Muhammad Khatami in Tehran, where he attends a summit of leaders of countries of the D-8, and discuss with him bilateral security and economic issues.

February 18- President Ahmet Necdet Sezer addresses a summit of D-8 leaders in Tehran and says that the only way to improve the image of Muslim nations in the West is to show that the terrorists who are undertaking violent acts in the name of religion have nothing to do with Islam.

February 18- Syria has sent messages to Israel via Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül offering to restart stalled peace talks between the two countries, Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam says.

February 19- NATO's new Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer holds talks with Turkish leaders in Ankara as part of his courtesy visits to NATO capitals following his taking over the post. Speaking after talks with Scheffer, Defence Minister Vecdi Gönül says Turkey is willing to consider NATO requests to send troops into Afghanistan as the alliance struggles to find nations to deploy peacekeeping forces there. "If NATO has new requests concerning Afghanistan, of course we would be open to considering them," Gönül says.

February 28- More than 100 Iraqi Turkmens rally in front of the US administration's headquarters in Baghdad and scuffle with American soldiers as they

protest a proposed interim constitution which they say does not recognise Turkmen's political rights.

March 01- Turkmen leaders in Iraq call for international help in keeping the peace in Kirkuk, a scene of ethnic tensions between Kurds and Turkmen.

March 16- Jordan's King Abdullah starts a two-day visit to Turkey and meets with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer to discuss developments in Iraq and peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians.

March 16- Syrian forces open fire on Kurdish protesters in northern Syria close to the border with Turkey, killing seven people in Arab-Kurdish violence.

March 17- Turkish Energy Minister Hilmi Güler arrives in Egypt's capital Cairo for energy talks with Egyptian authorities. The one-day visit comes as the two countries are considering plans to transport part of Egypt's natural gas riches to Turkey through a pipeline that will cross Lebanese, Jordanian and Syrian territories.

March 22- Turkey joins the international condemns in strong terms the assassination of the Palestinian Hamas' spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin by Israeli forces. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says the move has undermined hopes for peace in the Middle East.

March 22- Hundreds of people gather in Istanbul and Ankara to protest the killing of Hamas founder and spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yasin. Gathering in front of the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul.

March 24- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan accuses Israel of "terrorism" after the assassination of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin, saying the killing is an "act of terror".

March 26- Thousands of Turks, pouring out of mosques in Ankara and Istanbul, shout slogans against Israel and the US, and burn an effigy of the Israeli premier Ariel Sharon to protest recent killing of Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

April 07- Prime Minister of Morocco Driss Jettou meets with Turkish Premier Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during a visit to Ankara.

April 07- Parliament Speaker Bülent Arınç arrives in Damascus for a four-day visit to discuss ties between parliaments of the two countries. Arınç is received by Syria's President Bashar Assad, discussing with him bilateral ties and regional issues, including US plans to encourage democratic reforms in the Middle East as part of the Greater Middle East Initiative.

April 11- Lebanese Foreign Minister Jean Obeid arrives in Ankara for the first visit by a Lebanese foreign minister in 21 years and holds talks with Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gül on bilateral relations and regional issues, including the situation in Iraq.

April 22- Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal holds talks with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül during a visit to Ankara and the two ministers agree on closer co-operation against terrorism.

May 01- Turkish and Iraqi officials sign a deal to move Baghdad's trade fair, postponed due to security fears, to Turkey's south-eastern province of Diyarbakır. The trade fair, which was to have taken place in April in Baghdad, will instead be held May 25-27 in Diyarbakır.

May 08- Iranian armed forces close down a newly modernised airport in Tehran, whose operation rights have been given to a Turkish-led consortium, TAV, on the first day of operation, citing security reasons stemming from the involvement of a foreign operator.

May 12- Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Hariri arrives in Ankara for a two-day visit and holds talks with top Turkish leaders, including President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and Prime Minister Erdoğan, tackling bilateral relations and the situation in Iraq.

May 20- Prime Minister Erdoğan denounces as inhumane Israeli attacks against Palestinians in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and calls on the international community to do more than simply condemn it as an "unforgivable" act on the part of Israel.

May 21- Turkey is close to making a decision on whether to command NATO's peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, ISAF, in the beginning of next year, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is quoted as saying in the same interview with the Wall Street Journal.

May 25- Turkey has received an invitation to attend a meeting of G-8 countries in June that is expected to discuss the US-proposed Greater Middle East Initiative, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is quoted as saying at a meeting of his Justice and Development (AK) Party.

May 25- Parliament debates situation in Iraq and an Israeli offensive in a Palestinian refugee camp in the Gaza Strip but falls short of issuing an official condemnation against abuse of Iraqi captives by US soldiers and the Israeli operation. Addressing the parliamentary session, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says the United Nations should play a more active role in Iraq as the war-ravaged country heads towards a transfer of authority from U.S-led coalition forces to Iraqis amid a worsening security situation.

May 26- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says Turkey could recall its ambassador in Tel Aviv for consultations and upgrade its diplomatic representation in the Palestinian Authority by appointing a new consul general with ambassadorial rank, signalling tension in relations with Israel over its Gaza offensive.

May 27- Turkey is sending three helicopters and a 56-member technical support team to Afghanistan to contribute to international peacekeeping efforts in the country, the General Staff says in a statement.

May 27- Addressing an international security conference in Istanbul, Deputy Chief of Staff General İlker Başbuğ says only a strong central government could keep Iraq together, rather than the weak federal system envisaged under current plans.

May 31- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan criticises Israel for its actions in Palestinian territories but says that Turkish disapproval will not affect economic relations with the Jewish state.

May 31- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül visits Saudi Arabia and holds talks with the country's leaders to secure its support for efforts to end international isolation of Turkish Cypriots after their vote in support of a UN plan for reunification of the island.

June 08- Iraqi militants display seven Turks said to have been kidnapped because they have worked for Americans and threaten companies co-operating with US forces with more attacks.

June 11- Turkey's ambassador to Israel, Feridun Sinirlioğlu, and Consul General in Jerusalem Hüseyin Bıçaklı return to Tel Aviv after being recalled for consultations earlier in the week amid recent tension between the two countries following Ankara's criticisms against Israeli operations in the Gaza Strip.

June 15- Iraq's neighbours and Egypt, meeting on the sidelines of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) session in Istanbul, give a major boost to the country's fragile interim government, welcoming the transfer of authority and wishing success to the new administration that will officially take power on June 30.

June 21- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül expresses concern over ethnic and political divisions in Iraq and says Turkey cannot not stand quietly by if Kurds take control of the Kirkuk region.

June 21- Israel has operatives training commando units in Kurdish areas of US-occupied Iraq, an alignment with the Kurds that gives Israel "eyes and ears" in Iraq, Iran and Syria, The New Yorker magazine reports.

June 22- Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani meets Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül in Ankara on the first day of a visit. Speaking to reporters after meeting the minister, Talabani rejects claims that Kurds are seeking to dominate Kirkuk to try to consolidate their autonomy in Iraq.

June 24- Iran says it has released an unspecified number of Turkish troops it detained briefly after they strayed into Iran "by mistake", Iran's state-run television reports. The television says Iranian border guards have arrested a number of Turkish

troops and sent them back to Turkey after an investigation proved they mistakenly crossed the border into Iran. It gives no timing for the detention or release of the troops.

June 28- The occupying powers in Iraq formally transfer sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government to try to thwart guerrilla attacks. Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül welcomes the transfer of authority from the US-led civilian administration to Iraqis as good and meaningful and says the Iraqi interim government, which takes over the sovereignty, should be given due support.

July 03- Turkey is withdrawing its remaining peacekeepers from northern Iraq where they have been deployed since 1997 to prevent internecine fighting between Kurdish groups running the region because their mission there is done, Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Namık Tan says.

July 05- In an unscheduled move, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan visits Jordan and holds talks with King Abdullah on regional issues.

July 07- Iran announces that Iranian troops clashed nine days ago with militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Ali Asgar Ahmadi says that eight militants of the PKK, which now goes by the name Kongra-Gel, and two members of the Iranian forces have been killed in the clash.

July 09- Two Turks are among prisoners being held at the notorious Baghdad prison, Abu Ghraib, Turkish officials say.

July 10- Iran is co-operating with Turkey in the field of security, a spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry says.

July 13- Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Naji Otri opens a three-day official visit to discuss bilateral trade, the fight against PKK terrorists and instability in neighbouring Iraq. Al-Otri calls on Israel to destroy a barrier it is building to seal off the West Bank.

July 13- Ehud Olmert, deputy prime minister of Israel, arrives in Ankara for a visit hours after Otri starts separate talks with Turkish leaders.

July 21- Foreign ministers of Iraq and countries neighbouring it, Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, as well as Egypt, meet in Cairo to discuss border security. The ministers agree to create closer security co-operation with Baghdad and to send their interior ministers and security officials to a meeting in Tehran at the request of Iraq.

July 26- Sudan's Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail visits Ankara amid growing international pressure on his government to find a solution to the bloody

conflict in the western region of Darfur and meets his Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gül, to discuss the dispute in Darfur and other bilateral and international issues.

July 28- Iran has decided to act in concert with Turkey and the two countries will sign a memorandum of understanding stipulating that Iran designates the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) as a terrorist organisation, Prime Minister Erdoğan says at a press conference after talks with Iran's Vice President Reza Arif to reporters on the first day of a visit to Tehran.

August 05- Turkey must continue trading with Iraq, Foreign Trade Minister Kürşat Tüzmen says, despite a spate of abductions and at least two killings of Turkish truck drivers by militants, but it taking new security measures.

August 18- Iraq's interim President Ghazi Al-Yawar arrives in Ankara for a two-day visit to boost trade and discuss security issues amid a surge of hostage taking in Iraq that have targeted several Turkish truck drivers.

August 25- Iraqi insurgents target foreign truck drivers for kidnapping to deter companies and individuals from working with US forces in Iraq. Some Turkish companies operating in Iraq have pulled out in a bid to save the lives of their employees taken hostage.

August 27- An online statement purportedly from an Islamic militant group, Martyr Omar el-Mukhtar Brigade, which is the military wing of the Jamaat al-Tawhid al-Islamiya, warns Turkey against sending supplies and equipment to US-led coalition troops in Iraq, or risk paying a high price.

August 30- Three top advisors of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Ömer Çelik, Egemen Bağış and Mevlut Çavuşoğlu, depart for Israel on a mission to restore ties strained over the premier's strongly-worded criticism of the Israeli government for the treatment of Palestinians.

September 07- Nechirvan Barzani of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Jalal Talabani of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) arrive in Turkey for talks at the Turkish Foreign Ministry concerning the situation in northern Iraq and issues of bilateral concern.

September 09- Iraqi Kurds are ready to fight to protect the Kurdish identity of Kirkuk, a city of rich oil reserves and a mixed ethnic population, Massoud Barzani, leader of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) says.

September 10- Syria has turned over a senior member of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Hamili Yıldırım, and six other militants to Turkey in a sign of closer security co-operation.

September 17- Iraqi-Kurds are trying to change the demographic structure of Kirkuk in their favour which may lead to tension and clashes in the future in northern Iraq, a National Security Council (MGK) bulletin says.

September 22- Iraq's interim administration appeals to Turkey for support for the creation of an international conference ahead of upcoming elections in the country, instead of an already scheduled meeting of foreign ministers of neighbouring countries. The request for support came at a meeting between Gül and Iraqi interim Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings in New York.

September 26- Iranian President Mohammad Khatami postpones a visit to Turkey scheduled for this week after Iran's Parliament approved a law that will cause two Turkish companies to hold off on operations in the neighbouring country, Iranian officials say. The announcement in Tehran was made after a meeting of the Iranian Cabinet yesterday, which discussed the issues of contracts with Turkey and Khatami's planned visit.

September 28- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül appeals to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan for closer attention to ethnic tensions in Kirkuk, warning that the explosive situation in the northern city threatens stability in the whole of Iraq.

October 03- Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath sends a letter to Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and asks for Turkey's help amid the mounting violence north of the Gaza Strip where Israel has been conducting major raids in four years of conflict.

October 03- A Turkish-led peacekeeping force stationed in Iraq's northern Kurdish region is officially dissolved at the weekend after a seven-year mission aimed at stabilising a region.

October 06- Turkey conveyed its concerns over a week-long Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip that has killed 77 Palestinians to the Israeli government, a Foreign Ministry spokesman says.

October 11- Ankara discusses the status of the ethnically-mixed city of Kirkuk with Iraqi Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani and says the issue should be settled as part of a process of creating a permanent constitution for Iraq, due after elections slated for January.

October 13- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan tells a visiting delegation of representatives from an American Jewish organisation that a security wall that Israel is building in the Gaza Strip would not serve peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

October 18- Barzani warns neighbouring states not to interfere in the issue of the disputed of Kirkuk.

November 05- Turkey is against the establishment of a separate Kurdish region within Iraq, but Ankara is ready to provide any help Iraqi Kurds may need, Gül says.

November 06- Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa arrives in Ankara for talks relating to Iraq ahead of an international conference on the situation in the war-torn country later this month.

November 12- Turkey's prime minister and foreign minister both attended a funeral ceremony in Cairo for Yasser Arafat, who passed away last week.

November 23- Turkey and Iran agree that local elections in Kirkuk should be held on schedule and the delay proposed by two Kurdish groups running the northern part of the country should not be considered.

November 23- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says the problems faced by the Islamic world can no longer be resolved through normal national efforts, calling instead for a global effort to provide the solution.

November 25- The rules of international law have been violated in Fallujah and the city has become a "bleeding wound" on the conscience of humanity, Parliament Speaker Bülent Arınç says.

November 25- Mehmet Elkatmış, a senior government lawmaker and chairman of Parliament's Human Rights Commission, accuses the United States of committing "genocide" in Iraq.

December 22- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is embarking on a two-day visit to Syria to discuss the improvement of commercial ties. On the first day of his visit, Erdoğan will meet with Syrian President Bashar Assad and Prime Minister Naji al-Otari for talks also concerning the region, most notably the situation in mutual neighbour Iraq

December 25- Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, arriving in Ankara from talks in Syria and Lebanon, sought closer dialogue with Turkey on matters of common concern, including, most notably, Iraq.

V. RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA, CAUCUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

January 10- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and his Azerbaijani counterpart, Vilayat Güliyev, tell a joint news conference in Baku that they want trilateral talks with Armenia to find a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute.

January 13- A consortium formed by Russian Efremov-Kautschuk GmbH and the Zorlu Group of Turkey submits the highest bid in the privatisation of the Turkish Petroleum Refineries Corporation (TUPRAS) by offering \$ 1,302 billion.

January 23- Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov accuses Turkish non-governmental organisations of aiding Chechen rebels.

February 06- Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov says that most mercenaries killed or captured in Chechnya were Turks.

February 09- Defence Minister Vecdi Gönül plays down Russian concerns over involvement of Turkish citizens in Chechen attacks against Russian targets, voiced by his Russian counterpart Igor Ivanov, and says Ivanov's remarks are merely an "observation, not an accusation".

February 17- Georgian Foreign Minister Tedo Japaridze holds talks with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and other Turkish leaders in Ankara. Gül says Turkey would welcome a Georgian proposal to Moscow for construction of a pipeline parallel to the route being taken by the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan to transfer Russian oil through Georgia to Mediterranean port of Ceyhan.

February 24- Foreign Minister Gül arrives in Moscow to hold talks with Russian officials on improving bilateral ties, with a special focus on security and energy matters. Gül is the first foreign minister to make an official visit to Russia in eight years. Gül holds talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Moscow. Putin says after meeting with Gül Turkish-Russian relations are becoming more stable and that the two countries are co-operating on a variety of issues, including the fight against terrorism.

February 25- Foreign Minister Gül meets with his Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov, in the second day of talks in Moscow. Ivanov says Russia is ready to support Turkey's bid to become a member of the 15-member UN Security Council in 2009-2010.

March 21- A Turkish delegation headed by former foreign minister Yaşar Yakış meets Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili and Adjarian leader Aslan Abashidze during a visit to Georgia and emphasises the importance Turkey attributes to Georgia's territorial integrity, after tension between the central government and the Adjarian administration.

March 24- Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev says that Turkey is coming under intense pressure to open its border with Armenia, a move he warns would make a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict impossible.

March 26- Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage says in Armenian capital of Yerevan that Washington supports Turkey's opening its border gate with neighbouring Armenia.

April 02- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovych sign an agreement aimed at boosting the two

countries' efforts to join the European Union, and say they hope to participate together in the reconstruction of Iraq.

April 03- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, speaking after his return from a two-day visit to the Ukraine, says Turkey has signed an extensive joint action plan with Ukraine that envisages multi-dimensional co-operation between the two countries in the fight against terrorism, economy, trade, agriculture and transportation.

April 13- Azeri President Ilham Aliyev begins a state visit to Turkey, his first visit since election as president, and meets with Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer. Turkey would like to see a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Sezer says after meeting with Aliyev.

April 14- Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev meets with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and addresses the Turkish Parliament on the second day of his visit. "Our strength lies in our unity. Turkey's strength is Azerbaijan's and Azerbaijan's strength is Turkey's", Aliyev says.

April 19- Turkey is planning a trilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan prior to the NATO Summit to be held in Istanbul in June to discuss a solution to the long-standing territorial dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül says. Gül also says Turkey is not planning to open its border gate with Armenia until the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute is resolved.

April 23- Russia reiterates its concern over alleged Turkish and Saudi support for rebels fighting Russian forces in Chechnya.

May 10- Armenian President Robert Kocharian will not attend a NATO summit in Istanbul next month because he is dissatisfied with his country's relations with Turkey, spokesman Ashot Kocharian says.

May 20- Georgia's president, Mikhail Saakashvili, holds talks with his Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Necdet Sezer, in Ankara in his first visit since coming to power in elections in January. He thanks Ankara for its "constructive stance" during his administration's stand-off with the restive Adjarian region.

June 11- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is set to attend a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Istanbul in a bid to foster closer co-operation with Muslim nations, Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko says in Moscow.

June 28- Gül meets his Armenian counterpart Vartan Oskanian at the NATO summit, discussing efforts to resolve an Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region and Turkey's bilateral ties with Armenia.

August 12- Prime Minister Erdoğan arrives in Tbilisi with a large delegation of Turkish businessmen to boost economic co-operation between Turkey and Georgia.

September 02- Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is grappling with a mass hostage-taking situation at a school in southern Russia, postpones his scheduled visit to Turkey.

October 20- Turkish and Russian officials are working on arrangements for a milestone visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin to Ankara which is likely to take place by the end of this year, Russian diplomats said.

November 07- The Armenian government has dropped its customary reference to an alleged "genocide" in next year's draft budget sent to Parliament for approval.

December 04- Russian President Vladimir Putin begins a visit to Ankara. Putin's visit was originally scheduled for September but was postponed due to a tragic hostage crisis in a Russian school.

December 27- The Marnueli Military Airport in southern Georgia, modernised by the Turkish Air Force, was opened for night flights over the weekend with a ceremony.

VI. OTHERS AND DOMESTIC

January 05- The Turkish government presents Parliament with a bill dropping six zeros from the Turkish Lira by 2005 and setting the name of the new official currency of the Turkish Republic as the "New Turkish Lira".

January 13- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Secretary-General Donald J. Johnston begins a visit to Ankara and meets with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül.

January 20- In Ankara, Pakistan's President General Pervez Musharraf opens talks with Turkish leaders on terrorism, regional issues and expanding business ties.

January 24- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan invites Switzerland's Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey to visit Turkey, four months after her visit was cancelled because Swiss lawmakers in a regional assembly formally labelled as "genocide" the World War-I era casualties of Armenians in eastern Turkey.

February 08- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan arrives in South Korea for a visit aimed at boosting commercial ties and increasing Korean investments in Turkey. In Seoul, Erdoğan attends a dinner hosted by South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun and holds talks with Turkish and Korean businessmen.

February 12- Amnesty International's Secretary-General Irene Khan meets with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül and Interior Minister Abdülkadir Aksu in Ankara, the first time Turkish leaders met with a head of the Amnesty International.

February 12- President of Serbia-Montenegro Svetozar Marovic arrives in Ankara for talks with Turkey's leaders on bilateral relations and international issues. The two countries also sign an agreement on tourism co-operation.

February 14- "Head-On", a German film by Turkish-rooted German director Fatih Akın about Turkish immigrants, wins the Golden Bear best film award at the Berlin Film Festival.

March 01- Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül's wife Hayrunisa Gül announces that she will withdraw a "headscarf application" she has filed at the European Court of Human Rights before her husband became the Turkish foreign minister.

March 02- Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomeos-I has shuffled the council governing his church by appointing foreign clerics for the first time since establishment of the Turkish Republic. Under the reshuffling, half of the seats in the 12-member Holy Synod go to foreign nationals.

March 03- The Annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 9.14 percent in February, the State Institute of Statistics (DİE) announces, the first time inflation in Turkey is in single digits since 1977.

March 13- The first school to teach Kurdish is opened in the south-eastern province of Şanlıurfa, two years after Parliament passed a law allowing such schools in a bid to join the European Union.

March 16- In a rare admission of error, Turkey's military General Staff blames "officers with flawed training" for the existence of a blacklist naming an array of groups deemed to threaten national security. The list has included supporters of the United States and the European Union, artists, writers and children of wealthy families, in addition to a myriad of others, ranging from Satanists to sexual and meditation groups, racist groups, drug addicts as well as Masonic lodges. "This is the fault of staff officers who have had flaws in their training. This issue is an internal matter of the Turkish armed forces," a statement from the General Staff says.

March 22- The Chairman of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff General Kim Jong Hwan starts a four-day visit to Turkey and meets with his Turkish counterpart, General Hilmi Özkök in Ankara for talks on promoting military bilateral exchanges and South Korea's planned troop deployment in Iraq.

March 26- A criminal court in Ankara sentences four policemen to more than four years in prison for torturing to death university student Birtan Altınbaş 13 years

ago in a human rights case closely followed by the United States and the European Union.

April 09- Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Morshed Khan holds talks with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül during a visit to Ankara, discussing bilateral ties. Gül says after meeting that the result of an election this year for new secretary-general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), a post which candidates from both countries are running for. "Whatever the result of the election for the OIC secretary-general, our friendly relations with Bangladesh will continue," Gül says.

April 12- Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi asks visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for help in securing the release of three Japanese nationals held hostage by insurgents in Iraq, the Japanese Foreign Ministry says. Erdoğan says in response that Turkey is ready to provide intelligence support for Japan for the rescue of the hostages.

April 12- Turkish leaders gather for the state funeral of Sakıp Sabancı, one of the country's leading businessmen. Thousands of workers in his factories observe a minute of silence without stopping their machines to reflect his hardworking character.

April 20- Turkish and Chilean officials sign an agreement committing the two countries to co-operate in the fields of military training and the defence industry. The agreement is signed by Chile's visiting Defence Minister Michelle Bachelet and Turkish Deputy Chief of Staff General İlker Başbuğ.

April 21- The Canadian Parliament votes 153-68 to formally recognise as a "genocide" the World War-I era casualties of Armenians in eastern Turkey. Turkey condemns a decision by the Canadian Parliament and warns of negative consequences for bilateral relations.

April 25- More than 10.000 Australians, New Zealanders and Turks gather in Çanakkale province on the Gallipoli Peninsula to sing hymns and pray for those lost in World War-I on ANZAC Day.

April 28- NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer arrives in Istanbul to review preparations ahead of the NATO summit to be held there in June and holds talks with Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül.

April 29- Mongolia's President Natsagiin Bagabandi holds talks with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer during an official visit to Ankara and the two leaders discuss ways to translate friendly ties into concrete co-operation in the economic field.

May 07- In an effort to advance Turkey's bid to join the European Union, Parliament casts a 457-8 vote to approve a set of constitutional reforms that would

abolish State Security Courts (DGM) and introduce civilian supervision over military expenditures.

May 16- Ruslana from the Ukraine wins the Eurovision Song Contest hosted by Turkey in Istanbul, with the song "Wild Dance" in a colourful performance inspired by mountain folk music.

May 17- Four small percussion bombs explode outside branches of British bank HSBC in the Turkish cities of Ankara and Istanbul, hours before British Prime Minister Tony Blair arrived in Ankara for a visit. Police says the blasts have caused minor damage with no casualties.

May 31- The 57th World Association of Newspapers (WAN) Congress and 11th World Editors Forum, bringing together more than 1.000 representatives from newspapers in 85 countries, opens in Istanbul.

June 02- Amnesty International criticises the Turkish government for failing to effectively implement existing laws to protect women from violence and says as many as half of all Turkish women are victims of physical violence within their families.

June 04- Turkey is to start regular broadcasts in Kurdish as part of an effort to prove to the EU. The head of TRT Şenol Demiroz says broadcasts will be made in Turkey's two main Kurdish dialects and also Arabic, Circadian and Bosnian.

June 04- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ministerial conference opens in Istanbul.

June 09- The Supreme Court of appeals orders the release of Kurdish-rooted Turkish former lawmakers Leyla Zana and three others.

June 10- "Turkey's release of Leyla Zana and three other colleagues, and the start of Kurdish-language broadcasts, have opened a new era in the country's human rights record", Human Rights Watch says.

June 14- A meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) opens in Istanbul. In a message read to the meeting by UN special envoy for Iraq Lakhdar Brahimi, Secretary-General Kofi Annan appeals to attending countries to support Iraq's new interim government and says the country has good prospects despite widespread violence.

June 23- The Minimum Wage Commission, bringing together representatives of employees and labour unions, set the monthly minimum wage for the second half of the year as net TL 318 millions.

June 28- NATO leaders open the summit in Istanbul to demonstrate that the defence Alliance is delivering on pledges to transform itself for post-Cold War security threats beyond its European and US borders. A statement adopted in the opening session of the two-day summit offers help in training Iraq's fledgling armed forces.

June 28- Anti-NATO protesters hurling paving stones and petrol bombs clash with riot police in Istanbul on the first day of the NATO summit, leaving around 30 people injured.

June 29- The European Court of Human Rights rules that Turkish state universities have the right to ban the Muslim headscarf to uphold the principle of the division of church and state.

July 11- Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and Romanian Prime Minister Adrian Nastase serve as witnesses, together with Jordanian King Abdullah and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf at the wedding ceremony of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's elder daughter Esra.

July 23- The Turkish General Staff plans to abolish four brigades, those to be scrapped are the 33rd armoured brigade near the Bulgarian and Greek borders, the 7th mechanised brigade on the Armenian border, the 10th infantry brigade on the Iranian border and the 9th armoured division in central Anatolia. The report says the General Staff also aims to scrap its Aegean army next year.

August 03- An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission headed by Turkey Desk Chief Reza Moghadam begin talks with Turkish economy officials, focusing on economic strategies covering the 2005-07 period.

August 08- Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomeos-I says EU candidate Turkey was still failing to fully guarantee religious freedoms.

September 24- The rector of Istanbul University is sacked by President Ahmet Necdet Sezer for failing to adhere to court rulings. Istanbul University Rector Professor Kemal Alemdaroğlu claimed he was sacked because of his Kemalist opinions.

October 06- Ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) deputy Bülent Arınç is re-elected as parliamentary speaker for a second term.

October 12- Visiting Chilean President Ricardo Lagos says the European Union would embrace major economic potential and culture by accepting Turkey as a full member.

December 10- Some leading Kurdish-rooted Turks had signed a lobbying advertisement in the International Herald Tribune calling for extended rights for Turkey's Kurds. It said Turkey should grant Kurdish-rooted citizens the same rights

Ankara wants for the Turkish Cypriots. "This advertisement is a huge misfortune", State Minister Mehmet Ali Şahin. Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) President Rauf Denктаş also criticised the advertisement for linking their issue to Cyprus.

December 27- New Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu has said he aims re-energize the OIC by making a series of administrative reforms.