

RELEASE IN PART
B1,1.4(D)

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 7, 2011 8:29 AM
To: H
Subject: Syria/Turkey

Robert Ford sent the following impressions this morning:

48 hours back on the ground, I am struck by how negative major developments here are:

[Redacted]

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- Asad pushes forward minimal reforms to quiet international critics;
- Very grim situation in Hama;
- Impending assault on Deir Zour;
- Harsh operations in and around Damascus, including Syrian govt shootings of protesters in restive Sunni districts of Qabun and Medan, 15 minute drive east and south of embassy, respectively.

I had a long meeting with Turk Amb after the August 6 Muallim meeting with Damascus dip corps and will send quick cable on Aug 7 about that. Per the Turk amb, the Turkish govt perceives that Asad "is at war with the Syrian people."

From Embassy Ankara:

Erdogan made a strong statement at an iftar dinner last night saying what was happening in Syria is an internal matter for Turkey, that Turkey's patience was running out, that Turkey cannot be a bystander to events in Syria, and that Turkey's next steps would depend on Syria's response to the message that Davutoglu would deliver on Tuesday "in a determined manner." This is being reported open press.

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