

Russian Envoy:

U.S. Wants to Create Chaos in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon has been facing a shortage in the U.S. currency in the past few days which created concern among Lebanese businesses and individuals since the Lebanese pound has been pegged to the dollar. Also, the U.S. Treasury’s office has accused on Aug. 29 Lebanese Jammal Trust Bank of “brazenly enabling” Hezbollah’s financial activities. In July, the U.S. Treasury Department named three Hezbollah officials Mohammad Raad, Amin Sharri and Wafiq Safa as “specially designated global terrorists,” effectively cutting them off from the international financial system. Moreover, rumors have been circulating about the U.S. plan to impose sanctions on allies of Hezbollah in Lebanon who do not necessarily belong to the party.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Russian Ambassador to Lebanon Alexander Zasytkin has accused the United States of attempting to create chaos in Lebanon and put pressure on Hezbollah resistance movement, Al-Akhbar local newspaper reported on Wednesday. “The crisis of shortage in U.S. dollars and the economic conditions imposed on Lebanon aim at creating chaos in the country in addition to targeting Hezbollah and its allies in the region,” Zasytkin said. The ambassador added that Hezbollah is the only party that will preserve its endurance if Lebanon’s country and government deteriorate.



This picture taken on December 4, 2018 shows the flags of Lebanon’s Hezbollah resistance movement (L), Lebanon (C), and Palestine flying near the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Kila.

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community responsible for any “humanitarian catastrophe”. In Ras al-Ain, Kurdish-led security forces set up checkpoints and stockpiled tires to set alight to blur the vision of Turkish military pilots, an AFP correspondent reported. Ras al-Ain was one of the places from which U.S. troops withdrew on Monday. “We will not leave this land,” said Kawa Sleem, a 32-year-old Ras al-Ain resident. “War has been chasing us for years, and everyday Erdogan threatens us with a new attack,” he added. It was expected that Ras al-Ain and Tal Abyad -- both with Arab-majority populations -- would be the focus of the first aggression. Kurdish forces have dug trenches and tunnels in both areas, covering streets with metal canopies to block the cameras of Turkish drones, AFP said. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that Iraqi Kurdish leaders he met earlier this week had voiced deep concern about the mixed signals from Trump. “They are extremely alarmed that such a lightweight treatment of this extremely delicate subject could ignite the entire region,” Lavrov said. Since 2015, Russia has been the main military backer of the Syrian government, which has called on the Kurds to accept the restoration of central government control. The Kurds called on Moscow on Wednesday to facilitate dialogue with Damascus. They have warned that a Turkish offensive would reverse the military gains achieved against Daesh and allow the jihadist group’s surviving leaders to come out of hiding. Turkey said it would not allow a resurgence of Daesh, but called on European countries to repatriate Takfiri prisoners being held in Kurdish detention centers.

ceptable to Tehran when those sanctions were lifted.

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The rallies soon turned into riots as some protesters started vandalizing public properties and attempted to enter the Green Zone in Baghdad -- which houses government offices and foreign diplomatic missions. The clashes have killed over 100 people and wounded more than 6,000 others. Iraqi officials say there are “malicious hands” behind the killing of both protesters and security forces during the recent spate of unrest in the country. On Monday, Iraqi President Barham Salih condemned as “unacceptable” the recent acts of violence targeting protesters, journalists and security forces, and urged security forces to preserve the rights of all Iraqis. He also warned against foreign attempts to fish in troubled waters.

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interviews with historical figures and new research to forensically examine the events. “Like all counter-intelligence stuff there’s a lot of smoke drifting over the tracks of who did what when,” said Murch, whose credits include “Apocalypse Now” and “The Godfather” movies. “But the film really does throw a lightning bolt across that landscape that makes it very clear what was going on.” The pair stumbled upon a 1980s British TV documentary which had identified and interviewed a former MI6 operative named Norman Darbyshire, who admitted helping mastermind the coup. The now-deceased Darbyshire is conspicuously absent from the program that aired, with suggestions the British government may have intervened to have him omitted. Amirani discovered a transcript of his interview with the documentary makers, and enlists Oscar-nominated actor Ralph Fiennes to play the ex-spy in a re-enacted interview. “The actual running of the coup from our side was my responsibility,” Fiennes recounts Darbyshire saying. Britain’s Foreign Office did not respond to a request for comment. For Amirani, 59, making a film about Mossadegh’s overthrow felt “as personal as it can get”, through the consequences of the coup that gave rise to the shah’s rule for 25 years,” he said. His interest was piqued after seeing pictures of the long-deposed prime minister at pro-democracy protests in Iran in 2009. That resonated with a deeply-held sense that the country’s recent history could have been radically different had Mossadegh remained in power. “He, for many including myself, presented the hopes and dreams of a democratic Iran,” Amirani said. During his decade-long quest to make “Coup 53”, relations between Iran and the West deteriorated markedly, with a 2015 nuclear deal unraveling and rising military frictions in the region. Amirani said he could feel history repeating itself. “Everything that happened in ‘53 was unfolding in the news headlines during our editing,” said Amirani. “The relevance of this film grew more and more the longer we spent making (it),” he added. “What the film can tell us is what (former U.S. President) Harry Truman said: ‘there is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know,’” Amirani recounted.

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East as part of a strategy of purportedly stopping or minimizing security threats before they spread to American and allied shores, but the policy has only led to more bloodshed. The U.S. has about 1,000 troops in Syria and about 5,200 in neighboring Iraq, the Associated Press said. Trump has long criticized President George W. Bush’s decision to invade Iraq in 2003. Trump also said the U.S. has spent \$8 trillion “fighting and policing” in the Middle East, up from the \$7 trillion figure he has cited numerous times. Graham said Congress “will push back” against Turkey. He had said earlier this week that he was working on a bipartisan bill to sanction Turkey if they invaded Syria, but he did not mention the proposal during Wednesday’s interview. “We’re not giving Turkey a green light in Congress and we’re not going to abandon the Kurds,” he said. “If the President does so, we won’t.” Trump announced Tuesday that he and Erdogan will meet at the White House on Nov. 13.

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“very light and sweet”. The discovery on Minoo Island was the first ever oil find in the general area of Abadan which is home to Iran’s largest and oldest oil processing facility. President Donald Trump has described Iran as a country of “tremendous potential”, but ruled out lifting unilateral US sanctions on Tehran. Iran’s Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh on Tuesday admitted that the sanctions have led to the country’s oil industry falling behind but Tehran will resist. “The conditions in Iran are in a way that once every few years the oil industry receives a deadly blow and the economic sanctions can be considered one of those,” he said. “This has caused Iran’s oil industry to fall behind from the international position and space but we will resist in this area,” Zangeneh added. The minister said talks were underway with several domestic companies to extract more oil from South Pars, but they had not come to a conclusion yet. South Pars is the world’s largest gas field, but it also has significant oil reserves which Iran shares with Qatar across from the Persian Gulf. Zangeneh said China’s national petroleum company CNPC had pulled out of developing phase 11 of South Pars and the project had been awarded to NIOC subsidiary Petropars. “China has pulled out of developing the phase 11 of the South Pars field and Petropars will carry out the job,” he said. Petropars signed a \$440 million contract last month to produce 500 million cubic feet per day of gas from the Belal field in the Persian Gulf. “Despite U.S. sanctions, the train of the oil industry development has not stopped ... sanctions have not stopped us; we are alive; we are active and are making efforts for the sake of Iran’s oil industry,” Zangeneh said at the signing of the contract. On Tuesday, the minister said Iran also plans to begin operation at Farzad B gas field and its contract will be signed in the coming months. Indian companies discovered the Farzad B gas field in Iran in 2008 and had bid several times for its development. But each time they either dragged their feet at the time of sanctions on Iran or made financial proposals unac-

‘UAE Pulls 200 Troops From Yemen’s Aden’



The UAE-backed separatists in Yemen flash the V-sign of victory at the al-Alam crossroads on the eastern entrance Aden from the Abyan province in southern Yemen on August 29, 2019.

SANNA (Dispatches) – The United Arab Emirates has pulled some of its forces from Yemen’s southern port of Aden, officials and witnesses said. An Emirati convoy boarded

a military vessel at Buraiqa oil terminal near Aden refinery that had shipped out, two officials told Reuters. Four employees at the refinery said they saw a large convoy of military vehicles and three buses carrying around 200 troops headed toward the terminal. Forces loyal to the ex-government of Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi and the UAE-backed separatists are reportedly close to a deal that may help heal a deepening rift between the two sides. Both the UAE-sponsored separatists and the Saudi-backed pro-Hadi militants serve the Riyadh-led coalition and have been engaged, since 2015, in a bloody war on Yemen aimed at reinstating Hadi and crushing

the popular Ansarullah movement. The former president resigned in 2014 and later fled to the Saudi capital. Ties between the two sides have soured over a number of issues, including what the Yemenis view as Abu Dhabi’s intention to occupy Yemen’s strategic Socotra Island and gain dominance over the major waterways in the region. The coalition has been struggling to defeat the popular Houthi movement since 2015 but has so far failed to do so. The Western-backed war on Yemen, coupled with a naval blockade, has killed tens of thousands of Yemenis, destroyed the country’s infrastructure, and led to a massive humanitarian crisis.

Turkey ‘Neutralizes’ 109 PKK Members Nationwide

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish forces have neutralized 109 members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in operations across 12 provinces, the country’s Interior Ministry announced Wednesday. Among the neutralized were senior members of the PKK, the ministry said in a statement, adding that the Turkish forces also destroyed shelters of the PKK and seized a large amount of ammunition and weapons. The number of PKK members inside Turkey has fallen below 500, the statement said. The word “neutralize” is often used by Turkish authorities to imply that the person in question has surrendered, or being killed or captured. The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, has launched its campaign against Turkish government for more than 30 years. On Sunday, Turkish forces killed two high-ranking members of the PKK during separate counter-terrorism operations, supported by fighter jets, in Iraq’s northern semi-autonomous Kurdistan region and the country’s eastern province of Tunceli. Security sources, requesting not to be named, said on Monday that Ayfer Kordu, better known by the nom de guerre Bese Erzincan, was neutralized in a joint precision operation by Turkish jets and Turkey’s National Intelligence Organization (MIT) in the mountainous Qandil region of northern Iraq on September 13. Kordu was reportedly the top decision-maker in the KJK – the female branch of the PKK, and joined the terror group in the 1980s. According to intelligence sources, she was trained by Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the PKK. She was in charge of managing, training and assigning female PKK militants. The slain PKK militant was on the red category of Turkey’s terror blacklist. Turkey’s terror list is divided into five color-coded categories, with red as the most wanted, followed by blue, green, orange and gray. PKK militants regularly clash with Turkish forces in the Kurdish-dominated southeast of Turkey attached to northern Iraq. A shaky ceasefire between the PKK and the Turkish government collapsed in July 2015. Attacks on Turkish security forces have soared ever since. Over the past few months, Turkish ground and air forces have been carrying out operations against PKK positions in the country as well as in northern Iraq and neighboring Syria. More than 40,000 people have been killed during the three-decade conflict between Turkey and the autonomy-seeking militant group.

After talks stalled, Egypt submitted a proposal on Aug. 1, including conditions over filling the reservoir. Earlier this month, Ethiopia rejected that proposal, calling it “an effort to maintain a self-claimed colonial era-based water allocation and veto power on any project in the Nile system”. Last week, Egypt said the talks were deadlocked, accusing Ethiopia of “inflexibility” and calling for international mediation. Ethiopia rejected that call. Egypt has sought assurances that the dam will not significantly cut the river’s flow to its rapidly growing population. Sudan also hopes to benefit from electricity produced by the GERD.

Egypt Denounces Ethiopia for Nile Dam Project

CAIRO (Reuters) – Egypt denounced Ethiopia on Wednesday for moving forward with building and operating a hydropower dam on the Nile, which Cairo worries will threaten already scarce water supplies. Ethiopia, the source of the Blue Nile which joins the White Nile in Khartoum and runs on to Egypt, says the dam will not disrupt the river’s flow and hopes the project will transform it into a power hub for the electricity-hungry region. A diplomatic standoff has heightened tension between the countries, which have held on-again-off-again talks over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) for years. They signed a “declaration of princi-

ples” with Sudan in 2015 as a basis for negotiations, but no breakthrough has been made since. Egypt relies on the Nile for up to 90% of its fresh water, and fears the dam, which is being built in Ethiopia close to the border with Sudan, will restrict already scarce supplies. “Ethiopia’s moving forward with the operation and filling of the Renaissance Dam is unacceptable and a clear violation of the Declaration of Principles and will have negative consequences for stability in the region,” Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said in parliament on Wednesday. “We call on the international community to shoulder its responsibility in find-

ing a solution that satisfies all parties.”

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UNHCR... (Continued From Page 2)

By allowing Iranian women to pass their nationality to their children, the new law marks a ground-breaking step towards reducing the gap between men and women in Iran, where nationality is mainly transmitted jus sanguinis by the father. While the law still doesn’t put mothers and fathers on a fully equal footing with respect to their ability to confer nationality, it represents a significant incremental improvement. Although Iran is not party to the conventions on statelessness, the Government of Iran is taking concrete steps towards the prevention and reduction of statelessness in the country. The amendment of the nationality law is particularly welcome given UNHCR’s global #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024. Stateless people can face a lifetime of exclusion and discrimination, often denied access to education, healthcare, and job opportunities.