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TEXT

SUBJECT: USIS ANKARA MEDIA REACTION: "NAZI GOLD" REPORT

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(WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1998)

1. TURKISH PRESS IS FOLLOWING VERY CLOSELY THE RELEASE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S "NEUTRALS REPORT" ("NAZI GOLD"). TODAY, MOST MAJOR DAILIES CARRIED HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REPORT'S TURKEY SECTION AS MAIN NEWS ITEMS, AND TWO INFLUENTIAL DAILIES GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE. EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

2. "THE U.S. BLAMES TURKEY"

LALE SARIIBRAHIMOGLU WROTE IN INTELLECTUAL/OPINION MAKER CUMHURIYET, CIRCULATION 50,000, JUNE 3, FRONT PAGE: "THE U.S. IS TRYING TO PUT THE BLAME ON TURKEY ABOUT THE NAZI GOLD ISSUE IN ORDER TO LET SWITZERLAND OFF THE HOOK ON THE MATTER. THE U.S. PUT TURKEY IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT HAD NOT DONE ANYTHING TO PREVENT THE HOLOCAUST. TURKEY, WHO HAD PROVIDED REFUGEE STATUS TO 100,000 JEWS AT THAT TIME, IS FOCUSING ON TWO CLAIMS IN THIS ISSUE: TURKEY CALLS THE U.S. ACCUSATIONS 'MORALLY UNACCEPTABLE,' AND IS ALSO DOING ITS BEST TO PROVIDE HARD EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT TURKEY NEVER CONFISCATED THE GOLD OF JEWS. THE U.S., IN ITS SECOND REPORT ON THE NAZI GOLD ISSUE, MENTIONED TURKEY AS AMONG THE COUNTRIES WHO HAD LOOTED THE GOLD OF JEWS. TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO MENTION TURKEY ALONGSIDE SOME OTHER COUNTRIES. THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT TURKEY HAD NOTHING TO HIDE ON THIS ISSUE, AND PLEDGED COOPERATION TO BRING OUT THE FACTS... MOREOVER, THE ARMENIAN LOBBY IN THE U.S. WAS ALSO ENCOURAGED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT. BUOYED BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST TURKEY, THE AMERICAN ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY ORGANIZATION IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH ANOTHER CAMPAIGN AGAINST TURKEY."

3. "NAZI GOLD IS TOO HOT TO TOUCH"

YASEMIN CONGAR WROTE IN MASS APPEAL MILLIYET, CIRCULATION 478,000, JUNE 3, PAGE 18: "HISTORIANS, UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, PREPARED THE NAZI GOLD REPORT, WHICH DOCUMENTED THE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN NAZI GERMANY AND THE SIX COUNTRIES WHO HAD NOT IMPOSED A TRADE BOYCOTT AGAINST GERMANY AT THAT TIME, INCLUDING TURKEY, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND ARGENTINA. THE

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REPORT MENTIONED THAT TURKEY HAD NOT COMPLIED WITH INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE ONE MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF NAZI GOLD, DESPITE THE DEMAND BY THE

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TRIPARTITE 'GOLD COMMISSION' IN 1953. HOWEVER, TURKEY'S RECENT INITIATIVE TO SET UP A HISTORIANS COMMISSION ON THE SAME ISSUE WAS REFLECTED AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPORT. UNDERSECRETARY EISENSTAT SAID THE U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF ACCUSING ANY COUNTRY, AND DEFINED ITS MAIN PURPOSE AS A 'CLEANSING PROCESS FOR ALL OF US.' HE PRAISED TURKEY'S SUPPORT FOR THE JEWS DURING WORLD WAR II."

JONES, ACTING

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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