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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL

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BODY

COUNTRY: IRAN

SUBJ: (U) ISRAEL BEHIND EGYPT COUP

SOURCE: Tehran Mehr News Agency in English 1115 GMT 20
Aug 13 (U)
TEXT:

[NEWS AGENCIES]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

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[Computer selected and disseminated without OSC editorial intervention] Israel behind Egypt coup

TEHRAN, Aug.20 (MNA) Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan claims Ankara has proof Israel was behind the July 3 military "coup" that toppled Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi, Turkish media report. Erdogan said the West was beginning to redefine democracy as a process that is not solely determined at the ballot box, although the poll represents "the people's will."

"This is what has been implemented in Egypt. Who is behind this? Israel. We have evidence," Erdogan said, as quoted by the Hurriyet daily, during a meeting with provincial chairs of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

Erdogan spoke of a meeting between Turkey's justice minister and a "Jewish" intellectual in France before Egypt's 2011 elections.

"The Muslim Brotherhood will not be in power even if they win the elections. Because democracy is not the ballot box': This is what

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[the intellectual] said at that time," the PM continued.

Erdogan did not clarify what connection the unidentified intellectual had to the Israeli government or how his alleged opinion proved Israel played any part in the recent ouster of Morsi.

In March, Israel attempted rapprochement with Turkey after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Erdogan to apologize for the 2010 Gaza flotilla raid that resulted in the death of eight Turks and one Turkish-American.

Erdogan accepted the apology and both sides agreed to carry out further discussions. The Turkish PM, however, said that normalization of bilateral ties would take time, insinuating that Turkey wanted to ensure victims of the raid were compensated and that Israel remained committed to easing the restriction of goods to Gaza before restoring relations, Haaretz daily reports.

[Description of Source: Tehran Mehr News Agency in English -- Conservative news agency, run by the Islamic Propagation Office, and affiliated with the conservative Qom seminary; in October 2010, prominent long-time journalist Reza Moqaddasi, previously an executive director of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, was appointed to a four-year term as managing director; URL: <http://www.mehrnews.com>]

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