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On Monday February 27th, 2012, WikiLeaks began publishing *The Global Intelligence Files*, over five million e-mails from the Texas headquartered "global intelligence" company Stratfor. The e-mails date between July 2004 and late December 2011. They reveal the inner workings of a company that fronts as an intelligence publisher, but provides confidential intelligence services to large corporations, such as Bhopal's Dow Chemical Co., Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon and government agencies, including the US Department of Homeland Security, the US Marines and the US Defence Intelligence Agency. The emails show Stratfor's web of informers, pay-off structure, payment laundering techniques and psychological methods.

Humint -- Oil & Ragheads

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Peter, from an Izzy spy. Of any value?

Here I am back from the ancient land of Colchis and the Golden Fleece to our contemporary times that might be not that different. My main political discovery was the issue of the BTC- the oil and natural gas pipelines from Baku through Tbilisi to Ceyhan linking Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to a USA backed alliance- challenging Russia and Iran on the one hand and the Arab leading role in world energy supply on the other. Kazakhstan coming closer to this alliance is making life more difficult to Russia. As for Georgia - its relations with Russia are now in total collapse- Russia closing its borders with Georgia and supporting the Abkhazians and the Osis of Southern Ossetia against the central government in Tbilisi.

It is all but NOT a local Caucasian dispute and the Israeli dimension gives it a global strategic importance. The rich oil and natural gas fields of the Caucasus is considered to be the main future resources for Europe, but connecting those fields also to Far East Asia- India, China, and Japan THROUGH ASHEQELON gives it further strategic importance. For Israel the decision to join the BTC is actually to finally abandon the ME and join the worlds of the Caucasus and Far East Asia.

This can give us another plausible explanation to Putin visit in Saudi Arabia- the two parties threatened by the BTC and especially the Ashqelon connection to FEA. This can give us another explanation for their support of Hamas together with another BTC rejected power- Iran. Hamas has the capability to threaten Ashqelon, cutting Ceyhan from India, China and Japan. Hence you have another angle to understand the engine that led to Mecca agreement and the Palestinian unity government.

Now the pipeline of Ashqelon-Eilat is used to supply the Egyptian oil to Israel, but in order to use it for the BTC supply to FEA you have to

reverse the course of flow, which is not only technical matter- but strategic decision- disconnecting from the Arab Egyptian oil to Caucasian, Israel becoming not part of the ME - that rejected it anyway - to become part of the Caucasus- FEA worlds, furthermore- the Ashqelon linking point will give Israel key importance in global economy.

Why Ashqelon? The BTC partners - in purpose - do not want to connect with Arab countries like Syria or Egypt for several reasons - the main one is their obscure future with regards with the advent of fundamental Islam.

Coming closer to know this background we can have another additional angle to understand Gaza situation which became an asset to anti-BTC forces- and the Hamas posing threat on Ashqelon extended from local Israeli-Palestinian problem- to global one.

Israel is now standing in front of a crossroad- joining the BTC or rejecting it will determine the position of Israel for many years to come. However, a hidden dispute inside Israel whether to join or reject the BTC is now raging inside the government- while National Infrastructures minister, Binyamin Ben Eli'ezer is the leading figure in support of BTC, it seems that Olmert is reserved. The merits are known- but also the risks are enormous - basically creating tensions with Egypt and Russia. As for Egypt it seems not accidental that Ben Eli'ezer became persona non grata in Egypt under the pretext of killing Egyptian prisoners during six days war and voices appeared lately in Cairo claiming sovereignty over Eilat-on the other edge of the pipeline. As for Russia-informal sources in Georgia told us that the late summit in Moscow between Putin and Olmert focused on the BTC subject and its repercussions including Israeli relations with Georgia. According to those sources Russia threatened Israel to refrain from selling Georgia with Israeli-made weapons, especially the new Tavor Assault Rifle- and help the country in building its reservists forces. Israel suspended these projects in return for Russian promise to extend support in the Iranian issue. The Georgian sources told us that while the Russians were stopping Israeli involvement in Georgian security affairs they are active in building a strong Armenian army. Georgia is to join NATO next year anyway, and NATO is already involved in Georgia including GERMAN security experts. Olmert is not going to challenge neither Russia nor the Arabs in the BTC issue and the signal for this came when he lately visited Turkey and refrain from meeting the Turkish energy minister who has signed an agreement with Ben Eli'ezer that is related to the BTC project as signal of reservation from the agreement signed.

Another major signal to this direction is the vigor in which Olmert is supporting the Saudi plan and his desire to meet with all-Arab delegation to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through Saudi Arabia. As far as I remember Ben Eli'ezer did not give any single statement in support of the Saudi plan- but maybe my memory betrays me.

We have also to remember that Lieberman - his right hand - is very much pro Russian and he will not recommend provoking Moscow on the BTC issue.

When we mention the pro Saudi inclinations of Olmert we have to include his tacit support to the Mecca agreements and the unity government in Gaza. The Kadima government is offering an alternative to the BTC project-the British Gas deal that will supply Israel with Palestinian gas in addition to Egyptian gas and the Egyptian oil supply. Politically speaking, the modest BG deal will distance Israel from conflicts with Russia and the Arabs but also distance it from occupying a strategic importance in global dimensions.

The USA attitude is not clear to me. On the one hand it is clearly behind the BTC as far as the Caucasus is concerned. Furthermore, as far as I know, until now they are angry with the Saudis about the Mecca accords that took them by surprise and they reject the unity government especially its being headed by Haniyya, but I cannot discern any involvement in

Israel to join the BTC. But maybe their rejection of the unity government is a strong indication that they favor Israel joining the BTC, because Hamas' solidifying its positions in Gaza is posing a threat to Ashqelon. The worsening relations with Saudi Arabia are another indication.

On the other hand Rice, who is pushing for Israeli-Palestinian breakthrough might be against Israel joining the BTC, because of her hidden support of the Baker - Hamilton report that in this context can be understood as supporting the Saudi leading role in global oil supply, limiting the BTC only to Europe. Who can tell?