

# Turkey basks in diplomatic clout

Sudarsan Raghavan

Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

ANKARA, Turkey — Huseyin Okursoy hasn't sold a car at his Mitsubishi dealership in more than eight months. Yet he's proud that Turkey risked losing a \$30 billion U.S. aid package three days ago when Parliament refused to allow U.S. troops to enter Turkey on the way to invade Iraq.

"It's what the people wanted," said Okursoy, 63, a burly, gray-haired man. "This is the first step towards a functioning democracy. I know I may pay a heavy price, but we don't need to depend on America."

Turkey's rejection of the United States has sparked a wave of national pride in this secular Muslim nation long ruled by autocratic politicians and

military leaders. Torn between the will of the people and intense U.S. pressure, 99 legislators of the ruling Justice and Development Party defected from the party line and voted against the measure to allow U.S. troops.

Many Turks say the decision could harm not only Turkey's economy but also the goal of foiling the creation of an independent Kurdish nation that might seek to include part of Turkey. Yet it still felt good to defy what many Turks believed were heavy-handed U.S. negotiating tactics and insensitivity to Turks.

"They don't want to be seen as the legionnaires of the United States," said Ali Carkoglu, research director of the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation in Istanbul.

At the same time, many of the Jus-

tice Party legislators who voted against the measure are inexperienced newcomers who are now having second thoughts that their vote could harm the economy while doing little to stop Turkey's involvement in a war against Iraq.

Already, national pride is giving way to a looming reality that war will severely affect Turkey whether it wants U.S. troops or not, and that could change the outcome in a possible second vote in a week or two.

"I can't help but feel proud about the parliament's decision," said Ahmet Sari, 31, a stock market analyst. "The idea of Turkey resisting U.S. pressure makes me feel better about myself. This doesn't mean that I think the decision was in Turkey's best interest."

"I hope they pass the vote this month, or else our economy will be badly affected in the long run."

U.S. military planners had less trouble convincing Turkey, a NATO ally, to allow the use of its bases against Iraq in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, despite the war's unpopularity.

This time, the democracy and free thought the United States encouraged in Turkey for years has come to haunt Washington. Public opinion polls showed 90 percent of Turks oppose war. The Justice and Development Party was elected only four months ago on a populist platform that blamed Turkey's elite for economic crisis.

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# U.S. lists more terrorism breakthroughs

Shannon McCaffrey and Martin Merzer

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WASHINGTON — U.S. anti-terrorism agents announced two more breakthroughs Tuesday — the arrest of a man known as "the Lion of God" who inherited a hatred of America from his terrorist father and the capture of a man who allegedly handed Osama bin Laden \$20 million.

The first man, Mohammed Omar Abdel-Rahman, was seized last month in Pakistan. His arrest helped lead to the weekend capture of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, self-described engineer of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to U.S. intelligence officials.

Among other things, conversations between the two al-Qaida operatives apparently were monitored by U.S. agents.

Abdel-Rahman, whose arrest was announced Tuesday, served al-Qaida as an operations chief and is believed to rank just below Khalid Shaikh Mohammed in the group's hierarchy.

Known to colleagues as "the Lion of God," he allegedly once ran a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan.

His brother, Ahmad Abdel-Rahman, was captured in Afghanistan in late 2001.

Both are sons of Omar Abdel-Rahman, a radical Egyptian cleric said to be the mentor of those responsible for the first bombing of the World Trade

Center in 1993. The elder Abdel-Rahman was convicted in 1995 for plotting to destroy bridges and tunnels in New York City and is now serving a life sentence in federal prison.

The financier whose arrest was also announced Tuesday — Sheik Mohammed Ali Hassan al Moayad of Yemen — allegedly raised money and recruited operatives for al-Qaida.

Al Moayad and a Yemeni assistant, Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed, were arrested Jan. 10 in a sting operation in Germany that capped a yearlong undercover operation, officials said.

A complaint unsealed Tuesday in federal court in Brooklyn, N.Y., accused them of funneling money,

weapons and recruits to al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said al Moayad, 54, bragged to an FBI informant that he handed bin Laden \$20 million before the Sept. 11 attacks that killed more than 3,000 people. Al Moayad also boasted that he was bin Laden's spiritual adviser.

German police arrested the two men at the request of U.S. investigators. German officials have been asked to extradite the two men to the United States. If convicted, al Moayad could face up to 60 years and Zayed could be imprisoned for up to 30 years.

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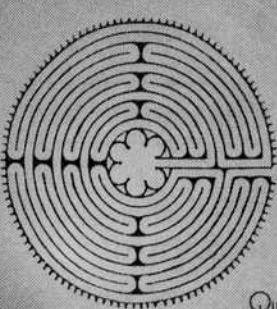
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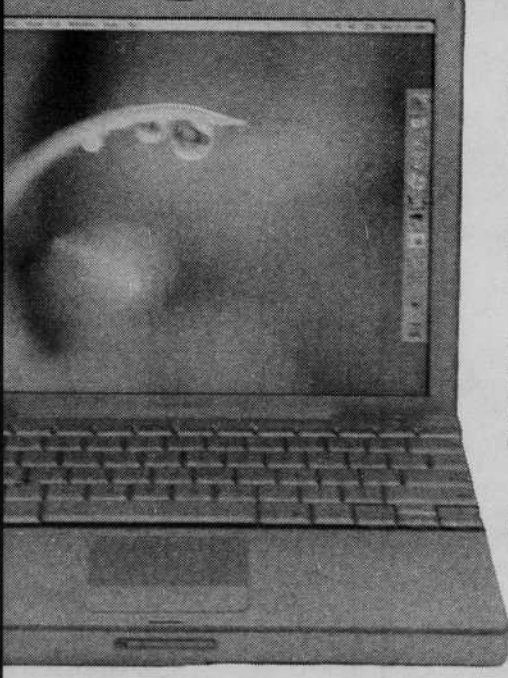
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