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From: Manatos & Manatos [redacted]
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Secretary Clinton's remarks at her Friday press conference with the Turkish Foreign Minister continued this Administration's excellent efforts to restore the credibility of the U.S. with Greece and Cyprus – which will lead to important progress in the region.

As you know, the Bush Administration consistently hid and defended actions by Turkey that were injurious to Cyprus and Greece, inconsistent with American values and principals, and also not in Turkey's best interests.

We highlighted for the top leaders in our community that Secretary Clinton once again in front of the Turkish Foreign Minister, called for a "bi-zonal and bi-communal federation" for Cyprus as well as expressed the United States' strong support for "freedom of religion."

With Secretary Clinton and others doing these kinds of things, America is moving to correct the biggest road block to a Cyprus settlement – restoring American credibility with the Greek-Cypriots which was badly lost during the Bush Administration.

Keep up the great work!

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Remarks With Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu

Hillary Rodham Clinton
 Secretary of State
 Treaty Room
 Washington, DC
 June 5, 2009

SECRETARY CLINTON: Good afternoon. Minister Davutoglu and I just had a very productive, broad-ranging, comprehensive discussion. And it is a great privilege to welcome him here to the State Department within the very first weeks of his having been appointed foreign minister. Of course, I was very honored to have gone to Turkey very early in my term as Secretary of State, and President Obama had a wonderful visit to Turkey.

And all of that is to confirm the strength and importance of our partnership and alliance. We have a lot of work to do together. Turkey, the United States, and the entire global community certainly face a great number of challenges, but we also see opportunities. So our message coming out of the meeting today and our prior meetings is that we're going to deepen and strengthen our cooperation on an ongoing basis, because we believe that both Turkey and the United States have unique roles to play.

Now, we obviously already collaborate. Not only are we both members of NATO, but we are working with the G-20 to respond to the global economic crisis, we're exploring ways to enhance our trade and commerce between our two countries, we're working to develop new energy sources, including resources from the Caucasus and Central Asia. We're partners in the fight against global terrorism. We share the goal of a stable Pakistan and Afghanistan, and to deny al-Qaida safe haven that can threaten our countries and many others. We support Turkey in its fight against the terrorist activities of the PKK, which has been a very important cooperation.

And I underscored again today the United States' strong support for Turkey's bid to become a member of the European Union. Turkey has made significant progress toward membership. It's been in a process of reform that is generated by its own internal decisions but which has certainly responded to many of the concerns regarding the strength of the bid that Turkey had. And so we applaud what Turkey has already done and pledge our efforts to continue working with Turkey.

And so we ranged across a broad number of issues, and I want to just make a special note. As President Obama said yesterday in Cairo, the United States is committed to broad engagement with Muslims everywhere across the globe based on mutual interests and mutual respect. **We believe strongly in the freedom of religion and expression, in vibrant civil societies, and we know that those are values that Turkey shares.**

And I want to thank the minister and his government for the role that Turkey plays as a force for peace and stability. This is important, and it's already been demonstrated in the work that Turkey has done for a number of years and continues with respect to comprehensive peace in the Middle East. And we are strongly supportive of the Turkish efforts to normalize relations with Armenia, and we are also very strongly supportive of the efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

We discussed Cyprus, which is an issue that the President also addressed when he was in Turkey in April. The two Cypriot leaders have an opportunity through their commitment to negotiations under the United Nations Good Offices Missions, and the United States is willing to help the parties. We want to work toward a settlement that reunifies Cyprus into a bi-zonal and bi-communal federation.

We discussed many, many concerns, and I'm just grateful for the commitment by the minister and by his government to play an active role in our dynamic world. Our relationship is not just about security; it is about seizing these opportunities, and I look forward to working with you.