

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 4:24 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Afternoon Brief No. 12 07/25/I (SBU)

Fyi:

ROK APPROVES FOOD AID TO DPRK

(SBU) The Republic of Korea (ROK) approved the delivery of 300 tons of flour to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for the first time since the artillery attack on Yeonpyeong Island in November 2010, media report. Embassy Seoul comments the aid will be provided by non-governmental organizations, part of an effort by the ROK to expand aid slowly to the DPRK. (Ops/Embassy Seoul telcon, AP)

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Afternoon Brief No. 12

Monday, July 25, 2011
 0300 EDT, 1500 Hong Kong

SYRIA REFORMS UNLIKELY TO APPEASE PROTESTERS

- (SBU) The Syrian cabinet approved a multi-party law outlining the principles and terms for the formation and functioning of political parties, media report. The Syria desk comments protesters will be skeptical of any new law given the government's lack of credibility and its failure to meet demands for a new constitution. The constitution currently guarantees the Baath party leadership in the country's politics. (Ops/Syria desk telcon, Xinhua News)
- (SBU) President Asad appointed new governors in the restive provinces of Deir al-Zour and Quneitra provinces, media report. The Syria desk notes the move follows similar firings in Hama and Deraa, made because Asad thought they would be popular with protesters. However, the changes do not signify a shift toward real reforms. (Ops/Syria desk telcon, Xinhua News)

GERMANY APPROVES \$144 MILLION FOR LIBYAN TNC

(SBU) Foreign Minister Westerwelle said Germany would loan the funds to the Transitional National Council (TNC) for civil and humanitarian purposes, media report. Embassy Berlin comments the package makes good on a commitment to assist the TNC that Prime Minister Merkel discussed with U.S. officials during her visit to Washington in June. (Ops/Embassy Berlin telcon, Reuters)

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CHINESE PREMIER SEEKS BROADER COOPERATION WITH JAPAN

(SBU) Premier Wen urged increased trade and cultural exchanges amid Japan's tsunami recovery efforts, according to press. Embassy Beijing comments the visit to Beijing by a Japanese builds on recent improvement in Sino-Japanese relations generated after China's effort to assist Japan in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami. Wen's statement also reflects China's eagerness to move forward with a trilateral foreign trade agreement among China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. *(Ops/Embassy Beijing e-mail, Xinhua News)*

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