Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών
«Ο Στράβων»

GEOPOLITICAL PERISCOPE

On the eve of NATO's summit in Ankara, STRAVON offers a few remarks:

- Turkey embarks on ambitious geopolitical objectives:

a. The establishment of a Maritime Component Command (MCC) in Istanbul represents an effort by Turkey within NATO's structure to instil back in the Alliance's logic the importance of the Bosporus and the Dardanelles Straits, importance which has been diluted, as NATO and the USA took advantage of the port of Alexandroupolis in Greek Thrace to chart an alternative route to Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and beyond, away from the monopoly of a neutralist Turkey. Now, Turkey's ties with the West are undergoing a turn around. So far, the government in Ankara has assiduously complied with the Montreux Convention (1936), which cogently regulates the regime of the Straits. It is a question whether and to what extent, the setting up of MCC will affect compliance with Montreux or will lay the groundwork for a conference to discuss anew the regime of the Straits and the Black Sea. As for Greece, to the least one should expect that henceforth the islands of Lemnos and Samothrake will be included as a matter of routine in the planning of exercises by NATO's military authorities.

b. Turkey signed a month ago in Riyadh a MOU with Saudi Arabia for the resurrection of the railroad Istanbul-Medina, reviving memories of the famous during WWI Hejaz railway, historically related to the Arab revolt. The project might not be pharaonic, unlike the Istanbul Kanal, yet it is undoubtedly a political project; Turkey in reviving the Hejaz railway purports to impede the Indian IMEC transport corridor to Europe (which admittedly is not a short-term plan) and at the same time to exercise pressure upon Israel, co-opting in the project the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Saudi Crown Prince MBS at the same time drives ahead his agenda to press in all possible ways Israel to change their apartheid policies in the West Bank and accept the creation of the Palestinian state. As long as there is a dead end in this issue, it is obvious that Riyadh will not join the Abraham Accords nor facilitate the Indian-European project.

c. The NATO Adana Corps Command structure.
Adana is Cilicia, the large plain of Cukurova, with strong Armenian history. It is next to the US base of Incirlik, close to the Syrian border and closer to Cyprus. The 6th Army Corps based in Adana is bound with the occupation forces in the north of the Island. With the establishment of this multinational command, Turkey aspires to have a NATO green light with regard to its objectives in Syria, Lebanon and the Kurds across

state borders. Israel has little reason to rejoice with this development, though as STRAVON thinks, the Americans will run the show in Adana.

STRAVON is aware that a grand bargain is being cooked behind closed doors involving Brussels and other European centres, Washington, Ankara, Nicosia, Athens, with Jerusalem and Cairo as keen external observers. One cannot be optimistic, unless the narrative of Mavi Vatan is gently shelved and stringent assurances are provided that a revamped (Federal) Republic of Cyprus to be gradually come in life, will be viable, not subject to Ankara's geopolitical overlordship, with a lean but effective central administration. As for the EU dimension of any package, both Ukraine and Turkey are for different reasons patently away from moving closer to the EU standards.

At last, STRAVON of Amaseia, welcomes the decision of Israel to recognize the Armenian Genocide. This action could have been taken at an earlier stage.

STRAVON,
Poros, July 06, 2026