

Tensions Rise in the Middle East

Laura Syzmanski

A new crisis has erupted in the Middle East. United States troops were deployed to Sudan to protect the U.S. embassy there. The deployment was in response to the murder of three civilians at the hands of Muslim extremists. The German and British embassies were attacked as well, after most of the Muslim faith saw the video after Friday prayers. According to Al Jazeera's Harriet Martin reported from Khartoum, Sudanese authorities are taking control of the situation and are handling it with extreme caution and care. They have deployed riot police around the U.S. embassy, while U.S. marines have already arrived in Yemen's capital where four people were found killed near the U.S. embassy on Friday. Protesters

were quoted as saying: "Today is your last day, Ambassador" and "America is the Devil".

In Tunis, two people were killed due to the violence between the police and protestors; crowds began climbing the embassy walls and were setting trees on fire around the building. Additionally, a U.S. school was set on fire, and two people were killed in Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Iraq, in response to the video. Jay Carney, White House press secretary, told the citizens that they have been watching the rising events in the Middle East. He was quoted as saying, "President Obama is following events, the violence is not justifiable, and the President is making sure in his conversations with leaders in the region that the safety of U.S. representation is respected in their countries."

Muslims were enraged

at the film's lack of respect, and have been provoked into protesting and forming mobs over the film. It depicts the Prophet Muhammad, which is a sin in Islam. The film was made in California. According to Rawya Rageh, a reporter from Egypt, protestors from even conservative groups in Sinai, stormed a camp that belonged to the U.N. multinational peacekeepers. They tore down that flag and replaced it with a banner that read "There's no God but Allah, Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah."

Thousands of people rallied in Gaza City after a day the Hamas party provoked and encouraged citizens to go the protest after Friday prayers. These protestors waved flags of the Hamas and Islamic movements, and began setting fire to the American flag. As they did this, they were yelling and chanting "Death, death to America, death, death to Israel". The anti-Islamic film was

blamed for the attack on the Libya's eastern city of Benghazi. Although we have since learned it was an attack by Al Qaeda. The attack killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens, and three other Americans on the anniversary of September 11, 2001. According to Hoda Abdel Hamid, a reporter from Benghazi: "There is a lot of tension in

Benghazi, people are confused, they want to protest, but after what took place at the US consulate, people are apprehensive, Libyan authorities still believe it was a planned attack at the embassy". Police fired warning shots into the air to make the crowd disperse outside a mosque.

(continued, see Protests, pg. 4)



The United States Consulate in Benghazi burns after the protests that took place there.

China Gears Up for Power Transfer

Ross Holland

The People's Republic of China is in the process of only the second peaceful power transfer in its 63 year history. This has happened only once before. In 2002 Jiang Zemin stepped down as General Secretary and Hu Jintao took his place. However, he remained as the head of the Central Military Commission (CMC), this position made him the military chief of staff, until 2004. Jiang Zemin's reluctance to step down caused quite a bit of tension among the Chinese elite and foremost party members. They

were nervous about Jiang Zemin's intentions. That issue remains something to be kept in mind this time around. If Hu Jintao steps down entirely, then the process of power transfer will be validated. This will allow a continuation of power in China that will stabilize the countries government. When Xi Jinping takes over as General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and as President of the People's Republic of China, hopefully a door will open to the future in China.

The world will watch these proceedings closely.

Any change in the economy of China could easily create a ripple effect throughout the world economy. China is also going through the process of appointing new members to the Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC). The PBSC is an executive body whose members each deal in a particular section of government. These include Economy, Internal security, Anti-corruption, Legislation, and Propaganda. Since 2002 this body has grown. Initially there were five positions, but now there are nine. This may yet again be changing, the number might be moved back to seven. That would be significant because when

the PBSC has had fewer members the government has operated at a much quicker pace, which should benefit the economy. There are, however, quite a few young politicians who qualify for advancement. If not all of these men receive a promotion they may become malcontent and lobby for promotion as the previously popular Bo Xilai.

Bo Xilai had gained a very large following and huge popular support. Recently, however, he has been involved in one of the growing number of scandals surrounding party officials. Bo Xilai covered up the fact that his wife was involved in the death of an Englishman.

When this was discovered he was demoted and has had no public impact. Other scandals have included a Party officials son crashing a Ferrari that he couldn't possibly have afforded, and several officials who's relatives amassed great fortunes by using their proximity to power.

(Cont., see China, pg 5.)

