



Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών  
«Ο Στράβων»

## ENDLESS DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST MED AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East is a classical case, where no permanent friends or enemies, even no permanent interests do exist. In the moving sands of the Levante and the Middle East the foe of yesterday can be the interlocutor/ friend/ ally of today or/and tomorrow.

The meeting a fortnight ago of high officials from Saudi Arabia and Turkey hosted by Iran in Tehran, indicates that the entire Middle East dynamics came under review. It is plausible to assume that Israel and the Palestinian issue were at the centre of these tripartite deliberations. In view of the Gaza stalemate, two chief antagonists for the favour of the Moslem Sunni world, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, overcame for a while their differences to discuss Palestine and definitely, as a collateral issue, Syria. The same applies to Iran, as both Israel and the Kurdish factor, push Ankara closer to Tehran, for the time being. There is no way for the Syrian Kurds, under their different umbrellas, as Rojava/YPG/ Syrian Democratic Forces to bow to joint Ankara s and Damascus pressure to disband their military formations just to be subordinated to the whole Syria. They will only be inclined to be EN BLOC incorporated to the new Syrian administrative and military set up.

**One lateral remark:** the lull between Turkey and Iran, in spite of opposing interests in Syria and the southern Caucasus, gives breathing space to the Republic of Armenia hard pressed as it is by Azerbaijan.

**Cyprus:** In the Republic they got to be modest and circumspect as ever. There is no other way than the bi zonal bi communal federation, but real federation, for the future of the Island. No over confidence is warranted. STRAVON remembers Andrei Gromyko and Henry Kissinger meeting April 1974 in Cyprus, then a misleading signal, just three months before the island was invaded by Turkey s army.

***STRAVON of Amaseia***  
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