

(B1)

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEW WITH TURKISH TELEVISION

You are giving an interview to Turkish TV tomorrow as a curtain raiser for your visit. The interviewer has said that he wants to cover four areas:

- bilateral relations;
- Turkey's application to join the EC;
- NATO;
- East/West relations.

I set out below some basic points you might make. There is fuller briefing in the folder, together with a copy of your draft speech in Turkey and your programme.

Bilateral Relations

- Turkey of great importance to Britain and a staunch ally in NATO. Look forward to visit. Been only once before.
- first British Prime Minister to pay a full official visit to Turkey.
- great admirer of Mr. Özal. Remember his visit here and your meeting in Berlin last year.
- great similarities in your economic policies. Both believe in enterprise and reducing the size of the public sector.
- Britain's economic success creates an excellent platform for developing relations with Turkey.
- looking forward to President Evren's State Visit in the summer. A great occasion.

- Suleyman the Magnificent Exhibition has been very well attended. It really is magnificent.
- admirer of Ataturk.

Trade

- trade is doing very well. Turkish exports up 42% last year and British exports up 18%.
- you want your visit to give trade a further boost.
- several major projects in which we have an interest, of which the third Bosphorus Bridge is only one.
- you will be seeing examples of British/Turkish joint ventures during your visit such as the Land Rover factory in Istanbul.
- you will also be breaking the ground for the major Ankara Natural Gas Project.

NATO

- Turkey a very important member of NATO. The South-East flank is vital to NATO's defence.
- an attack on Turkey will produce just the same response as an attack on any other part of NATO.
- great respect for the reputation of Turkey's armed forces, for instance in Korea.
- United Kingdom devotes a higher proportion of its GNP to defence than almost any other member of NATO, and undertakes many defence activities outside the NATO area.

- very successful NATO Summit which confirmed the basic strategy and the need to keep all NATO's weapons - conventional and nuclear - up to date.
- very much value Turkey's particular contribution on Middle East matters, based on Mr. Özal's knowledge of Iraq and Iran.

East/West Relations

[No briefing required.]

Cyprus

- Cyprus of very great importance to Britain.
- support a unitary state of Cyprus.
- will be meeting the new President of Cyprus, Mr. Vassiliou, before your visit to Turkey.
- regard the meetings between Mr. Özal and Mr. Papandreou as a good augury for progress on Cyprus. Look to being briefed on them by Mr. Özal.

Turkey and the European Community

- Turkey is already a member of the main Western and European institutions: NATO, OECD, Council of Europe.
- Turkey also has an Association Agreement with the EC. Much better use could be made of this.
- no European country has worked harder in recent years to strengthen Turkey's links with these institutions.
- your application for full membership has been referred to the Commission to give their opinion. That is the normal procedure. Cannot predict the outcome.

- but Britain will certainly give full weight to the long history of our relations with Turkey and our many common interests when the time for decision comes.

Charles Powell

22 March 1988