



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 November, 1979.

Turkey: Message to the New
Prime Minister

The Prime Minister has seen and approved the message enclosed with your letter to me of 15 November.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

P. Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Turkey

APR



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*Pm's Minister**Agree to L?*

15 November 1979

*Ans, 16/11**Yes no**Dear Michael,*Turkey: Message to New Prime Minister

Mr Demirel has just been appointed Prime Minister of Turkey. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary advises that it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to send a short message of congratulations to Mr Demirel once his government has received a vote of confidence in the National Assembly. The exchange of such messages is normal practice between Allied Governments and there is no reason why we should run the risk of offending the Turks by neglecting them on this occasion. I attach a draft message which would, if you agree, be despatched to Ankara for delivery by the Ambassador at the appropriate moment.

Mr Demirel's Justice Party is 41 seats short of an absolute majority in the Turkish National Assembly but has assurances of support from the two smaller right-wing parties. Assuming that it receives a vote of confidence early next week, the prospect is that the new government will hold office until well into next year and quite possibly until 1981, when the next general elections are due: the Assembly cannot be dissolved except by its own majority vote. Although strong administration seems unlikely, Mr Demirel's new Government may at least be no weaker than the coalitions of the past nine years.

*Yours etc**Paul*

(P Lever)
Private Secretary

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DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR DEMIREL

Please accept my warm congratulations on your return to office as Prime Minister.

You have assumed office at an important time and I look forward to our Governments working closely together in a spirit of true friendship and cooperation.

On behalf of the British Government I wish you every success.