



10 DOWNING STREET

File AH

Turkey

From the Principal Private Secretary

18 May 1981

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Dear Sir,

ATATURK CENTENARY :
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

As I explained to George Walden on the telephone this morning, the Prime Minister thought that the third and fourth sentences of the draft message to the Prime Minister of Turkey which you sent to Michael Alexander with your letter of 15 May 1981 were not entirely appropriate. She would therefore like both sentences deleted. Fortunately, this change does not upset the flow of the message, the middle sentences of which will now read:

" The work of Ataturk as a great statesman and the founder of modern Turkey is widely recognised. As Turkey's first President he became a close and respected friend of Britain. . . ."

Yours sincerely,

Avic Whinn.

F N Richards Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 May 1981

Dear Michael,

Needs *urgent*

Ataturk Centenary: Message for the Prime Minister

The Turkish Ambassador, on instructions from his government, has suggested that the Prime Minister might like to send a message at the opening of the celebrations on 19 May to mark the centenary of the birth of Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey.

According to the Turkish Ambassador, the FRG, the United States and Canada are also being approached in similar vein as 'friends of Turkey'.

The celebrations are of particular significance to the Evren Government since the armed forces regard themselves as the traditional guardians of Ataturk's principles and the guarantors of his democratic legacy to Turkey.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary recommends that the Prime Minister should send a message. It would help to preserve our influence with the Turkish regime following the successful visit which the Lord Privy Seal made there at the end of April. Lord Carrington thinks it important that we should be able to influence the Turks over their policies, particularly towards defence-related matters and South-West Asia. I enclose a draft message, which would, if the Prime Minister agrees, be telegraphed to the Ambassador at Ankara for delivery with an explanation of the request made by the Turks in London.

Yours ever,

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

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16 MAY 1981





MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY
FOR DELIVERY ON 19 MAY 1981

On the occasion of the opening of celebrations to mark the centenary of the birth of Kemal Ataturk, I send the best wishes of the British Government and people. The work of Ataturk as a great statesman and the founder of modern Turkey is widely recognised. ~~in Britain~~. We acknowledge the debt which Turkey owes to him for its commitment to the democratic system, and its membership of the Western Community. We remember that he first found fame fighting against us as a skilled and honourable foe in the defence of Gallipoli, when British and Turks came to respect each others' fighting qualities. As Turkey's first President he became a close and respected friend of Britain. We salute his memory and wish all fortune to Turkey and her people.

*The development
of its own
political system
and for*