

Greece
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TO IMMEDIATE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE,
TELEGRAM NUMBER 477 OF 11 DECEMBER 1981,
INFO PRIORITY (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR) ANKARA, ATHENS,
INFO ROUTINE (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR) BONN, PARIS, UKREP BRUSSELS.

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY.

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BILATERAL BREAKFAST WITH HAIG ON 11 DECEMBER: GREECE/TURKEY.

1. LORD CARRINGTON SAID THAT WHEN HE HAD MET PAPANDEOU A FEW MONTHS AGO HE HAD FELT THAT MUCH OF HIS PUBLIC POSITION COULD BE PUT DOWN TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. HE WAS NOW LESS SURE. THE GREEKS WERE BEING VERY DIFFICULT AND THE UNANIMITY RULE MEANT THAT THEY COULD IN EFFECT BRING THE COMMUNITY TO A HALT. HAIG SAID THAT THE AMERICANS HAD DONE THEIR BEST TO AVOID TROUBLE AND TO TURN THE OTHER CHEEK, BUT IMPLIED THAT THERE WERE LIMITS.
2. ON TURKEY, LORD CARRINGTON EXPLAINED HOW DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD ARISEN FIRST IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE WERE NOW SPREADING TO THE COMMUNITY. THE DANES, THE FRENCH AND TO SOME EXTENT THE GERMANS HAD A TENDENCY TO TAKE A PARTY POLITICAL VIEW. THERE WAS A DANGER THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN WHICH WOULD IRRITATE THE TURKS AT A MOMENT WHEN, GIVEN OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE GREEKS, WE PARTICULARLY WANTED THEM TO BEHAVE REASONABLY. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF THE TURKS COULD MAKE SOME EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT ON THEIR DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION, BUT HE SUSPECTED FROM HIS CONVERSATION WITH TURKMEN THAT THE TURKS WOULD ANNOUNCE A LENGTHY TIMETABLE WHICH WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL.
3. LORD CARRINGTON CONCLUDED BY ASKING HAIG TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH EVREN. HAIG SAID THAT THE TURKS WOULD NO DOUBT BE EXPECTING SOMETHING OF THE SORT DURING HIS VISIT TO ANKARA, THAT OF WEINBERGER HAVING BEEN ALL SWEETNESS AND LIGHT FROM THE TURKISH POINT OF VIEW. HE WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEM, WHICH COULD CAUSE TROUBLE IN CONGRESS TOO ALTHOUGH IT HAD NOT DONE SO YET. THE IMPRISONMENT OF ECEVIC HAD BEEN A SILLY MOVE. HAIG CONCLUDED THAT THE ONLY WAY TO INFLUENCE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS THROUGH THE GENERAL STAFF, AND HE AGREED THAT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH EVREN WAS SUCH AS TO ENABLE HIM TO TALK FRANKLY.

ROSE.

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