

856
}

file



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 April 1983

400th ANNIVERSARY OF ANGLO-TURKISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Thank you for your letter of 11 April proposing that the Prime Minister should attend the Reception which the Turkish Ambassador will give on Wednesday 4 May to celebrate 400 years of Anglo-Turkish diplomatic relations.

The Prime Minister wishes to postpone a decision on this matter until it is clear whether or not there will be a disarmament debate on that day. We shall therefore revert to the matter later this month and at that point reply to the Turkish Ambassador's invitation, which we had already received before I saw your letter.

A. J. COLES

R. B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

58



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

You are dining with George Howard at the B.S.C. on 4

London SW1A 2AH

May.
Will you spend 30 minutes at the Turkish reception first?

11 April 1983

A.S.C. $\frac{11}{4}$

John Thur.

It is possible that we shall have the dinner on that day not

400th Anniversary of Anglo-Turkish Diplomatic Relations

The Turkish Ambassador will shortly be inviting the Prime Minister to a reception on Wednesday 4 May to celebrate 400 years of Anglo-Turkish diplomatic relations.

In January, HM Ambassador at Ankara organised celebrations to mark the same event. (The first English Ambassador, William Harborne, left for Turkey in January 1583 and presented his credentials at the Sublime Porte on 4 May the same year). Lord Belstead attended the Ankara celebrations. These included a dinner at which the Turkish Prime Minister and other senior Ministers were guests.

The Turks attach great significance to these celebrations. They regard Britain as their best friend in Europe because of our sympathetic understanding of the Turkish regime's efforts to restore both law and order and democracy. They are also exceptionally protocol-conscious and very much hope that the Prime Minister will think it appropriate to attend the Turkish Ambassador's reception here in London since their Prime Minister attended the equivalent dinner at our Embassy in Ankara.

I understand that the Prime Minister has a meeting that day which may last until 6.30 pm and a dinner engagement at 7.30 pm. The Ambassador's reception, which will be attended by a Turkish Minister of State, Dr Ozdas, is from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm at his Residence (Portland Place). If, despite the pressure of her other engagements, the Prime Minister were able to put in a brief appearance at the Ambassador's reception, it would undoubtedly be greatly appreciated.

/Mr Pym

RESTRICTED



Mr Pym has also been invited to attend. He, too, has another evening commitment, but we shall be recommending that he attends for the first part of the reception.

Your own

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone', written in a cursive style.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION
500 5th Ave. New York 17, N.Y.