

Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree both messages?A.S.C. P.
12

8 December 1983

John Thur.

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Turkey: Appointment of new Prime Minister

Following the elections in Turkey on 6 November, President Evren has now invited Mr Gurgut Ozal, as Prime Minister elect, to form a government. It will probably assume office on 9 or 10 December. The Prime Minister may wish to send a message of congratulations to Mr Ozal, and a farewell message to the outgoing Prime Minister, Mr Bulend Ulusu. I enclose drafts.

Mr Ozal's Motherland Party won a decisive victory in the elections. Although these elections fell short of being fully democratic (restrictions were put on both parties and candidates) they were nevertheless conducted fairly and the Turkish voter was offered a clear political choice. They represent an important step to the restoration of full democracy. The Motherland Party was not the Generals' preferred choice. But Turkish voters have, in fact, probably chosen the best of the candidates on offer. Mr Ozal is an economist of international standing and the architect (as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs from 1980-82) of Turkey's recent economic recovery. The size of the turn-out at the elections and of Mr Ozal's majority (he gained 45 per cent of the vote) amounts to a significant vote of confidence in him.

So far as we are aware, Mrs Thatcher has never met the outgoing Prime Minister, unless she did so when he attended the Royal Wedding in 1981. Although an appointee of General Evren's military government, he has proved to be the effective head of an administration which has restored stability, revived the economy and steadfastly maintained Turkey's commitment to the Western Alliance despite what the Turks would regard as the unfriendly behaviour by some of their NATO allies, the Council of Europe and the EC. Mr Ulusu is likely furthermore to continue to be an influential figure in Turkey. A farewell message to him would therefore be appropriate.

/I should

CONFIDENTIAL



I should be grateful if you would let me know if the terms of the messages are approved so that we can send the texts to the Embassy in Ankara for delivery as soon as possible.

Yes
R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

The Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

HE Mr Bulend Ulusu

Copies to:

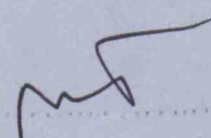
PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

As you relinquish the office of Prime Minister which you have held with such distinction since 1980 I should like to offer you the best wishes of Her Majesty's Government and of myself for the future.



Enclosures—flag(s).....

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

The Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

HE Mr Turgat Ozal

Copies to:

Prime Minister (designate) of the

Turkish Republic

PRIVACY MARKING

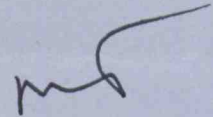
SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I send you my warmest congratulations on your recent election victory and on your appointment as the Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic.

I am confident that the close and friendly relations which exist between our two countries will continue to flourish under your wise administration.



Enclosures—flag(s).....