



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 January, 1985

POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO TURKEY

The Prime Minister has noted the suggestion in Ankara telegram number 47 that she might visit Turkey later this year or early next. She has commented that she is not keen to do this at present; and as you know it would in fact be very difficult for her to fit it in this year. But she has not reached a considered view on this and were the Foreign Secretary to make a strong recommendation that she should go, I am sure that she would be prepared to consider this.

(C.D. Powell)

L. Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CHECKING ON HT NOW

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

DWF F 026/22

LFG 147/22

OO FCO

RR #STANBUL

GRS 1250

CONFIDENTIAL

FM ANKARA 221000Z JAN 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 047 OF 22 JANUARY

INFO ROUTINE #STANBUL

MY TWO #PTS: SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT; FURTHER HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES.

SUMMARY

1. HALEFOGLU HAS PROPOSED A STATE VISIT TO THE UK BY PRESIDENT EVREN THIS YEAR. THIS IS PRESUMABLY A NON-STARTER. BUT I RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD NOW CONSIDER FURTHER HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES ON THE LINES OF A VISIT TO TURKEY BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND A STATE VISIT TO THE UK BY THE PRESIDENT TOWARDS THE END OF HIS TERM. HALEFOGLU WILL EXPECT TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. I SUGGEST AT THE TETE-A-TETE SESSION.

DETAIL

2. AT THE END OF OUR CONVERSATION ABOUT YOUR PROGRAMME BELEN SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY HALEFOGLU TO PUT THE FOLLOWING TO ME.

3. IT WAS NEARLY FOURTEEN YEARS SINCE HM THE QUEEN HAD VISITED TURKEY AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT NOW FELT THAT THE TIME WAS RIGHT FOR PRESIDENT EVREN TO PAY A STATE VISIT TO THE UK. TURKISH/UK RELATIONS WERE VERY GOOD AND A VISIT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WOULD SERVE TO UNDERLINE THIS IN AN UNMISTAKABLE WAY. HALEFOGLU VERY MUCH HOPED THEREFORE THAT YOU WOULD COME TO ANKARA WITH AN INVITATION FROM THE QUEEN FOR A STATE VISIT BY PRESIDENT EVREN AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. BELEN ADDED THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO INVITE THE WEST GERMAN PRESIDENT TO TURKEY IN 1986.

4. I SAID THAT MR HALEFOGLU HAD MENTIONED THE QUESTION OF HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES TO ME SOME MONTHS AGO, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY PRESIDENT EVREN (SEE MY TELS NOS. 319 AND 320 OF 18 JUNE LAST). HE HAD, HOWEVER, THEN SPOKEN TO ME IN TERMS FIRST OF AN INVITATION TO MRS THATCHER, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO THE UK BY THE PRESIDENT. I ASKED WHETHER HALEFOGLU HAD MENTIONED

PS

PS/ Lady Yang

PS/ Renta

Hd/ S&S

Hd/ Protocol D

MR. EGERTON

~~Mr. Egerton~~

Mr Jenkins

x7

PS/ NO 10

Prime Minister

You will want to be aware that a

possible visit by you to Turkey is being



discussed in the telegrams. esp 22/1

Not been approved

THE UK BY THE PRESIDENT. I ASKED WHETHER HALEFOGLU HAD MENTIONED MRS THATCHER IN MAKING THIS NEW PROPOSAL. BELEN REPLIED THAT IN SPEAKING TO HIM, MR HALEFOGLU HAD DISCUSSED ONLY THE HEAD OF STATE PROPOSAL.

5. STRESSING THAT I WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I SAID THAT A FULL STATE VISIT TO THE UK AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. THE NUMBER OF SUCH VISITS IN ANY ONE YEAR WAS, I THOUGHT, LIMITED TO THREE AND THEY WERE PLANNED A LONG WAY IN ADVANCE. WE DID, HOWEVER, ARRANGE TWO TYPES OF VISITS FOR HEADS OF STATE, FULL STATE VISITS AND 'OFFICIAL'. I EXPLAINED THE DIFFERENCE. GIVEN THAT UNDER THE TURKISH CONSTITUTION PRESIDENT EVREN, WHILE NOT HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT, WAS MORE THAN A TITULAR HEAD OF STATE, E.G. HE CHAIRED THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND SOMETIMES MEETINGS OF THE CABINET, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ENVISAGE AN 'OFFICIAL' VISIT WITH ITS GREATER EMPHASIS ON TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ETC. IF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WISHED TO THINK IN TERMS OF AN EARLIER RATHER THAN LATER VISIT BY PRESIDENT EVREN TO THE UK THE IDEA OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT MIGHT BE WORTH CONSIDERING. BELEN TOOK NOTE BUT THOUGHT THAT HALEFOGLU'S IDEA WAS A FULL STATE VISIT AND HE REPEATED THE HOPE THAT YOU WOULD COME WITH A SUITABLE INVITATION.

COMMENT

6. I HAD IN ANY CASE BEEN INTENDING TO PUT TO YOU SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT FUTURE HIGH LEVEL VISITS. THE MOMENTUM OF ANGLO/TURKISH RELATIONS IS BEING STEADILY BUILT UP AND YOUR VISIT FOLLOWING THOSE OF LORD BELSTEAD, MR HESELTINE AND MR PATTIE AND ON THE COMMERCIAL SIDE BY THE DUKE OF KENT AND HIS MISSION ARE MAJOR STEPS IN THAT PROCESS. WE CAN MAINTAIN THIS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. THERE ARE FURTHER, THOUGH LOWER LEVEL, TRADE MISSIONS SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR AND A HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR ON INVISIBLES IS BEING ARRANGED FOR MAY. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL IS VISITING ALSO IN MAY AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAVE SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF GENERAL STANIER OR PERHAPS ONE OF THE OTHER SERVICE CHIEFS COMING TO TURKEY IN THE SUMMER. THE PROCESS WOULD BE REINFORCED BY FURTHER MINISTERIAL VISITS. MR HALEFOGLU HAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE LADY YOUNG AND THERE IS ALSO A PROPOSAL OUTSTANDING FROM THE TURKISH MINISTER OF CULTURE THAT LORD GOWRIE MIGHT COME. AT AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT MR CHANNON MIGHT BE ANOTHER POSSIBILITY. ALL THIS WOULD BE VERY WELCOME HERE. BUT THE CLEAREST SIGNAL WE COULD GIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE UK AND WITH WESTERN EUROPE WOULD BE AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS AT THE PRIME MINISTER AND SUBSEQUENTLY HEAD OF STATE LEVEL.

7. I SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF MY TELNO 320 THAT A VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN 1985 MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED. I THINK NOW THAT IN TERMS OF OUR OVERALL INTERESTS HERE SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE TIMELY. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT KOHL IS SCHEDULED TO COME HERE IN MAY AND OZAL WILL BE GOING TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL.

8. I KNOW THAT THE PRESSURES ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIARY ARE FORMIDABLE AND THAT SHE CAN ONLY VISIT A FEW COUNTRIES IN ANY YEAR. BUT IF SHE HAS PLANS TO VISIT ANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS AREA E.G. IN THE SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER BEFORE THE CONFERENCE SEASON I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE INCLUSION OF TURKEY COULD BE

SEASON I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE INCLUSION OF TURKEY COULD BE CONSIDERED. IF THAT TIMING IS NOT POSSIBLE WE MIGHT LOOK AT THE FIRST HALF OF 1986.

9. AS REGARDS PRESIDENT EVREN, I ASSUME THAT ON SCHEDULING GROUNDS ALONE A STATE VISIT IS NOT A STARTER BEFORE 1987 OR 1988. BUT NOW THAT HALEFOGLU HAS RAISED THE MATTER MORE FORMALLY WE SHALL NEED TO CONSIDER THE PRINCIPLE. SIR JULIAN BULLARD POINTED OUT THE POLITICAL AND PRESENTATIONAL PROBLEMS IN HIS MINUTE TO SED OF 23 MARCH 1984 AND ALSO MENTIONED THE IDEA OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT. I THINK THAT THE TURKS WOULD REGARD THAT AS A SECOND BEST AND WOULD PREFER TO WAIT FOR A FULL STATE VISIT IF THEY KNEW THAT ONE COULD BE ARRANGED DURING PRESIDENT EVREN'S TERM OF OFFICE WHICH IS NOT UP UNTIL NOVEMBER 1989 (SEE ALSO PARAGRAPH 3 OF MY TELNO 320). I SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD NOW LOOK AT THIS LATTER POSSIBILITY. A STRONG CASE COULD BE MADE IN FAVOUR OF A STATE VISIT IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR LONG TERM POLICY OF STRENGTHENING TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND A LATER DATE WOULD ALLOW MORE TIME FOR PROGRESS HERE ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. A GENERAL ELECTION WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE BY NOVEMBER 1989 AT THE LATEST.

RECOMMENDATION

10. I RECOMMEND ACCORDINGLY THAT WE SHOULD NOW THINK IN TERMS OF:-

- (A) A VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO TURKEY WITH AUTUMN THIS YEAR OR THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR AS POSSIBILITIES SEMI COLON
- (B) A STATE VISIT BY PRESIDENT EVREN TO THE UK TOWARDS THE END OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE.

THERE WOULD NOT, I IMAGINE, BE TIME FOR DECISIONS ON THESE PROPOSALS TO BE TAKEN IN ADVANCE OF YOUR VISIT BUT IN YOUR TETE-TETE SESSION WITH HALEFOGLU YOU MIGHT GO OVER THE POSSIBILITIES WITH HIM. HE WILL IN ANY CASE EXPECT SOME DISCUSSION ON HIS PROPOSAL.

RUSSELL

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