



SUBJECT  
c. Master Set

File

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

7 February 1985

SECOND BOSPHOROUS BRIDGE

Mr. Michael Fallon MP and Mr. Richard Hickmet MP saw the Prime Minister this afternoon to press the case for credit cover and ATP for Cleveland Bridge's bid for the second Bosphorous Bridge. They did so very articulately, stressing the employment aspects and the importance of the contract for Britain's overall standing in Turkey. They recalled that the Turks had paid for the first bridge in three years. They stressed the urgency of a decision: indeed they hoped that one could be announced during the Foreign Secretary's forthcoming visit.

The Prime Minister explained our misgivings about Turkey's creditworthiness, and the competing claims for limited quantities of credit cover and ATP. A decision would have to balance competing claims. She would ensure that it was taken soon, though there was no prospect of a decision in time for Sir Geoffrey Howe's visit.

The next step in presumably an early meeting of EX.

I am copying this letter to Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office, HM Treasury), Colin Budd (FCO) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Charles Powell

Callum McCarthy, Esq.,  
Department of Trade and Industry.

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