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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 March 1985

Dear Charles,

Possible Visit by the Prime Minister to Turkey

In my letter of 1 February I promised to let you have the Foreign Secretary's considered views on a visit to Turkey by the Prime Minister after his return from his own visit to that country.

In the event the Turks did not press the question and indeed only raised it in a way which allows us time for full consideration of its manner and timing. The Foreign Secretary's view is that the Prime Minister should not visit Turkey for the time being because, following closely on his own, it would give the appearance of being unduly supportive of a government which, whilst a good NATO ally, has a human rights record which still causes us concern.

High level contact with the Turks could be maintained in the near future by an unofficial visit here by the Turkish Prime Minister. Chatham House have indicated a willingness to invite him to address one of their meetings and we shall encourage them to do so. This will enable us to arrange a full programme of calls without the possible political embarrassment (human rights again) of having him here as an official guest of government. The question of a visit to Turkey by the Prime Minister could then be looked at in the light of the value of Ozal's visit. On present form we would hope the Turks may have improved their international reputation sufficiently to allow for the Prime Minister to think of a visit towards the end of 1986.

Yours ever,
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Turkey: Pels. Nov 79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 February, 1985

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Dear Charles,

Possible Visit by the Prime Minister to Turkey

Thank you for your letter of 23 January.

As you know, the Foreign Secretary is visiting Turkey from 11 to 13 February. He has noted the Prime Minister's comments and will let her have his considered views shortly after his return. It now seems probable that the Turkish Prime Minister will pass on to the Foreign Secretary during this visit an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Turkey. If so Sir Geoffrey will express thanks and undertake to convey the invitation to Mrs Thatcher.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

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