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FM ANKARA 111600Z MAY 85
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 240 OF 11 MAY
AND TO IMMEDIATE DTI (FOR PEP AND OT5)
INFO IMMEDIATE TOKYO

YOUR TELNO 158: SECOND BOSPHORUS BRIDGE

1. I SAW MR OZAL THIS AFTERNOON AND GAVE HIM THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE (TEXT IN YOUR TUR).
2. IN REPLY MR OZAL SAID THAT THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO OBJECTION ON THE TURKISH SIDE TO CLEVELAND BRIDGE BEING INCLUDED IN THE WORK AS SUB-CONTRACTORS IF THEY AND THE JAPANESE FAVOURED IT. HE WAS PREPARED TO SAY AS MUCH TO MR NAKASONE.
3. I SAID THAT I WAS GRATEFUL FOR THAT, BUT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO TURKISH OBJECTION AND PUSHING POSITIVELY WITH MR NAKASONE IN FAVOUR OF CLEVELAND BRIDGE PARTICIPATION. MR OZAL SAID THAT HE COULD NOT 'PUSH'. IHI WERE INTENSELY INTERESTED IN BUILDING THE BRIDGE AND HE DID NOT THINK THAT PUSHING THEM OUT IN FAVOUR OF CLEVELAND BRIDGE WOULD BE POSSIBLE. I STRESSED THAT THAT WAS NOT THE INTENTION. WHAT WAS IN MIND WAS THAT CLEVELAND BRIDGE SHOULD CARRY OUT PARTS OF THE WORK IN AGREEMENT WITH IHI. THEY HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO THE JAPANESE. WE BELIEVED THAT CLEVELAND'S PARTICIPATION WOULD STRENGTHEN THE CONSORTIUM AND ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS OF THE BRIDGE BEING BUILT TO THE VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE MR OZAL HAD SET.
4. MR OZAL CONFIRMED THE INTENTION TO HAVE THE BRIDGE BUILT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS IN 1988. HE SAID AGAIN THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SPEAK TO MR NAKASONE. BUT I JUDGE THAT HE INTENDS TO DO SO IN TERMS OF 'NO TURKISH OBJECTION' RATHER THAN IN A MORE POSITIVE SENSE.
5. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION MR OZAL SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE OTHER PROJECTS IN THE FUTURE. FOR EXAMPLE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT WELL WISH TO CONSTRUCT A BRIDGE OVER THE NARROWEST POINT OF THE GULF OF IZMIT TO PROVIDE MUCH FASTER ACCESS FROM ISTANBUL TO BURSA AND EVENTUALLY IZMIR. HE AGREED THAT THIS WAS ONLY AN IDEA, BUT IN EFFECT HE WAS SAYING THAT CLEVELAND BRIDGE SHOULD NOT LOSE INTEREST IN TURKEY.

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/G. MR OZAL

6. MR OZAL WAS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY. I DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE JAPANESE HAD PLAYED FAIR OVER THE PROVISION OF CREDIT. TO HAVE QUERIED THOSE CREDITS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE WOULD, I THINK, HAVE BEEN COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. BUT IN CONSIDERING FUTURE TACTICS VIS-A-VIS THE JAPANESE WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT ALIENATING THE TURKS.

RUSSELL

LIMITED.

SED

FED.

PS

PS / LADY YOUNG.

PS / MR. RENTON.

MR. JENKINS.

COPIES TO .

PEP

OTS

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DTI

TRADE

Nat Tariff