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From the Private Secretary

23 December 1986

**VISIT TO THE UK BY THE TURKISH
FOREIGN MINISTER**

Thank you for your letter of 23 December asking whether the Prime Minister would agree to see the Turkish Foreign Minister next year. We are under fresh pressure to reduce the number of foreign visitors in the Prime Minister's diary and I am most reluctant to see any exception made for visiting Foreign Ministers. As you know the Prime Minister has already agreed to see the Spanish Foreign Minister.

(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 December 1986

Dear Charles,

Visit to the UK by the Turkish Foreign Minister

The Foreign Secretary has invited Mr Halefoglu to make an official visit to Britain in the early summer of 1987, as part of our policy of strengthening our bilateral relations with Turkey and keeping her firmly anchored to the Western Alliance.

Although the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Ozal, visited the UK in February this year, this will be the first visit by a Turkish Foreign Minister for nearly four years. It will be in return for the visit to Ankara made by Sir Geoffrey Howe in February 1985. In view of the importance that both we and the Turks attach to our relationship and the role we have played in trying to normalise Turkey's relationship with Western Europe, the Foreign Secretary would be grateful if the Prime Minister would be prepared to receive Mr Halefoglu during his visit. Sir Geoffrey was received in Ankara by both Mr Ozal, and President Evren. If the Prime Minister agrees to this call, we would envisage her touching on EC questions and Cyprus as well as our bilateral and commercial relations. It would also be an excellent opportunity for her to reiterate our views on human rights.

We could offer alternative dates for Mr Halefoglu's visit, 5-7 May or 6-8 July. Which would best suit the Prime Minister?

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

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