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From the Private Secretary

11 January 1988

PROPOSED VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO TURKEY

Thank you for your letter of 6 January about the arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit to Turkey.

BF || The Prime Minister is prepared to travel to Ankara on the evening of Wednesday 6 April. She is influenced in part by the belief that there may be restrictions on the programme she can carry out on Friday 8 April, given that Turkey is a Muslim country. I should be grateful for advice on this and on whether the Prime Minister could really carry out a full programme on that day as proposed in scenario 2.

The Prime Minister would in principle be ready to travel on the inaugural British Airways flight. But the security considerations must be paramount. You will want to have a security assessment made. The key point will be that the Prime Minister's plans to travel on the flight should not be known in advance, which may, of course, undermine some of the purpose of the exercise. You will want to reflect on this.

CHARLES POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 January 1988

What it boils down to
is whether you are prepared
to give up an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ day
of your Easter recess, so as to
Dear Charles, be able to visit Istanbul as
well as Ankara. It is not
entirely settled.

Proposed Visit by the Prime Minister to Turkey

You will have seen from Ankara telegram no 2 of 5 January (copy attached) that Mr Ozal has welcomed the Prime Minister's proposal to pay her official visit to Turkey on 7 and 8 April.

We are working on a draft agenda for the talks with Mr Ozal and his Ministers, and will be consulting you separately on this. But the question of the duration of the Prime Minister's visit and an outline programme need to be settled soon, ideally before Timothy Daunt begins detailed discussions with the Turks in mid-January.

You agreed shortly before Christmas that the Embassy should be asked to supply alternative outline programmes to cater for outward travel by the Prime Minister on either the evening of Wednesday, 6 April or the morning of Thursday, 7 April. This they have now done. I attach a copy of the two scenarios they propose.

Either of these alternatives would make a worth-while programme. But Scenario 1 would be crowded and confined to standard items in Ankara. Scenario 2 would broaden the scope of the Prime Minister's visit and would include Istanbul, which remains the business and press capital of the country. If diary commitments allow, we strongly recommend the latter option. I should be grateful if you would let me know the Prime Minister's preference.

With reference to Scenario items 1(C) and 2 (F) you will wish to know that the Ankara Turco-British Association, a private-sector organisation which works closely with the British Council there, plan a ground-breaking ceremony for their new building in the Spring. Attendance by the Prime Minister would give the Association a great boost at a time when they will be looking for additional financial support, as well as providing a good photo opportunity.

There remains one point of logistics. We have reserved an RAF VC 10 for the outward and return journeys in the usual way. The Embassy have however pointed out that British Airways are planning to introduce a direct flight from

/London

Well - we
must remember
that in a Muslim
country
Friday is
sacred - as
we observed in
Kano.

Prefer
to stick
to
shorter
visit?
COP
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London to Ankara in April. The inaugural flight (perhaps using Concorde) might be timed to coincide with the Prime Minister's visit. There would be some PR advantage in this, but also potential logistic problems, particularly if the Prime Minister returns via Istanbul. On balance the flexibility of the RAF VC 10 would seem preferable. But we shall be happy to explore the other possibility with BA if the Prime Minister so wishes.

If you agree, the visit could be announced in general terms on the same day as the inward State Visit in July, namely, 12 January. Specific dates could be announced much nearer the time.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Parker'.

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street