



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 March 1988

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter about her forthcoming visit to Turkey, with its generous offer to make an Air Europe aircraft available for her use. I shall bring this to the Prime Minister's attention as soon as possible and she will, I am sure, reply personally.

Charles Powell

Harry Goodman, Esq.



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HG/cah

14th March 1988

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

R 14/3

Dear Prime Minister

YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO TURKEY

As you may know, International Leisure Group, through its tour operating companies: Intasun, Lancaster and Global; sends more than twice as many people on holiday to Turkey than any other tour operator in the world, and in the current year we expect to provide holidays in Turkey for more than 100,000 people. Many of these passengers will travel on our own airline, Air Europe.

This sector of trade between Britain and Turkey is, of course, of benefit to both countries, and we understand that tourism is regarded by the Turkish Government as of great importance to the future development of their economy. In addition, it provides an opportunity for large numbers of British people to visit a country which, though very important to Britain, is still little known or understood by our people.

It has occurred to us that you would wish to give your support to this sector of trade between the two countries, and we thought that it would be very good for the image of the industry, in both Britain and Turkey, if you were to travel to and from Turkey by the same airline as many British tourists.


We understand that, although it is normal for you to travel in an RAF aircraft, precedent does exist for you to use a British civil aircraft. We understand that this idea has been favourably received by Sir James Spicer MP, Chairman of the Anglo Turkish Parliamentary Group, Keith Speed RD MP, Chairman of the Anglo Turkish-Cyprus Parliamentary Group, Sir Anthony Kershaw, former chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, and HE the Turkish Ambassador.

We are therefore delighted to be able to place at your disposal one of Air Europe's new aircraft, powered by Rolls Royce engines, for the exclusive use of yourself and your party for the purpose of your visit to Turkey at no cost to public funds.

We are aware that special communications equipment would be needed, and we would be happy to afford all necessary facilities for its installation, and for such security arrangements as may be necessary. We are also aware that it may be necessary for the aircraft to be made available 24 hours before departure and to remain on call in Turkey for your use at any time.

We look forward to hearing from you, and do hope that we may have the honour of carrying you on this important visit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H Goodman', written over a horizontal line.

HARRY GOODMAN
Chairman

cc: The Hon Archibald Hamilton MP

R C D Powell Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister