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bc: PC

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From the Private Secretary

21 March 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO TURKEY

Thank you for your letter of 18 March about the proposal that the Prime Minister should go to the War Graves Cemetery at Scutari during her visit to Turkey on 7/8 April.

I have discussed this with the Prime Minister, pointing out the additional time which such a visit would take. The Prime Minister is nonetheless determined to go. She would be prepared to begin that day much earlier, for instance leaving the Residence in Ankara at 0800 and giving a press conference at 0830 in order to leave time to visit Scutari before lunch in Istanbul. It might also be possible to drop the visit to the Municipality or, alternatively, to give a bit more time to the afternoon programme so that the Prime Minister's departure is put back by up to an hour.

I should be grateful if you could pursue this with the Embassy as soon as possible.

C D POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 March 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to Turkey: Programme

In your letter of 16 March you asked us to consider two suggestions for the Prime Minister's programme which had been put to you by Mr Thatcher.

We have consulted the Embassy in Ankara by telephone. Their advice on the idea of a visit to the War Graves Cemetery at Scutari is that this would involve a trip across the Bosphorus to the Asian side and would not be possible without an obligatory visit to the adjoining Florence Nightingale Cemetery. This exercise would take up a full two hours, ie knocking out the whole of the Istanbul programme after the Mayor's lunch. Timothy Daunt's recommendation, which we endorse, is that the Prime Minister should maintain the programme previously agreed with you, including the visit to Topkapi and the tours of the Land Rover and water treatment plants. He had in fact considered Scutari as a possible programme item at the outset, but rejected it because of the time a visit there would take out of the few hours the Prime Minister has to spare for Istanbul.

It would of course be possible for Mr Thatcher to go to Scutari independently if he wishes. But, as I have already mentioned, this would take two hours, and would mean that he would miss the commercial visits. I should be grateful for your advice on this.

The Embassy will do their best to ensure that the Turkpetrol representatives are included in one of the social occasions in Ankara or Istanbul.

Incidentally, we have asked Timothy Daunt to let us have a telegram as soon as possible outlining the programme they have drawn up for Mr Thatcher on the basis of previous correspondence between us.*

Yours ever,
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

* Just received & advanced
to you.

CSL
PC

PM TOUR S TURKEY

