

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEW WITH TURKISH TELEVISION

You are giving an interview to Turkish TV tomorrow as a curtain raiser for your visit. The interviewer has said that he wants to cover four areas:

- bilateral relations;
- Turkey's application to join the EC;
- NATO;
- East/West relations.

I set out below some basic points you might make. There is fuller briefing in the folder, together with a copy of your draft speech in Turkey and your programme.

Bilateral Relations

- Turkey of great importance to Britain and a staunch ally in NATO. Look forward to visit. Been only once before.
- first British Prime Minister to pay a full official visit to Turkey.
- great admirer of Mr. Özal. Remember his visit here and your meeting in Berlin last year.
- great similarities in your economic policies. Both believe in enterprise and reducing the size of the public sector.
- Britain's economic success creates an excellent platform for developing relations with Turkey.
- looking forward to President Evren's State Visit in the summer. A great occasion.

- Suleyman the Magnificent Exhibition has been very well attended. It really is magnificent.
- admirer of Ataturk.

Trade

- trade is doing very well. Turkish exports up 42% last year and British exports up 18%.
- you want your visit to give trade a further boost.
- several major projects in which we have an interest, of which the third Bosphorus Bridge is only one.
- you will be seeing examples of British/Turkish joint ventures during your visit such as the Land Rover factory in Istanbul.
- you will also be breaking the ground for the major Ankara Natural Gas Project.

NATO

- Turkey a very important member of NATO. The South-East flank is vital to NATO's defence.
- an attack on Turkey will produce just the same response as an attack on any other part of NATO.
- great respect for the reputation of Turkey's armed forces, for instance in Korea.
- United Kingdom devotes a higher proportion of its GNP to defence than almost any other member of NATO, and undertakes many defence activities outside the NATO area.

- very successful NATO Summit which confirmed the basic strategy and the need to keep all NATO's weapons - conventional and nuclear - up to date.
- very much value Turkey's particular contribution on Middle East matters, based on Mr. Özal's knowledge of Iraq and Iran.

East/West Relations

[No briefing required.]

Cyprus

- Cyprus of very great importance to Britain.
- support a unitary state of Cyprus.
- will be meeting the new President of Cyprus, Mr. Vassiliou, before your visit to Turkey.
- regard the meetings between Mr. Özal and Mr. Papandreou as a good augury for progress on Cyprus. Look to being briefed on them by Mr. Özal.

Turkey and the European Community

- Turkey is already a member of the main Western and European institutions: NATO, OECD, Council of Europe.
- Turkey also has an Association Agreement with the EC. Much better use could be made of this.
- no European country has worked harder in recent years to strengthen Turkey's links with these institutions than *TU UK.*
- application for full membership has been referred to the Commission to give their opinion. That is the normal procedure. Cannot predict the outcome.

- but Britain will certainly give full weight to the long history of our relations with Turkey and our many common interests when the time for decision comes.

C.D.P.

Charles Powell

22 March 1988

BACKGROUND

Turkish application for EC membership

1. Turkey's population (50 million) is growing at over 2% p.a. - implying 70 million by 2000, more than any EC Member State. GDP per capita is just over \$1000 (14% of EC average). EC Membership would imply massive resource transfers (had she been a member in 1986, it is estimated that net transfers from Northern to Southern Member States would have increased by 50% from \$5bn to \$7.5 bn). The Community's rules on free movement would eventually require the existing EC member states to cope with a heavy influx of migrant workers.

Defence Sales

2. The Turkish Armed Forces have traditionally met the bulk of their equipment requirements from the USA and FRG, on the basis of gifted second-hand equipment or aid supported new procurements. The UK has, however, also managed to win substantial business, most notably through two sales (1983 and 1985) of the BAe Rapier air defence missile system worth some £290m. More recently, the UK has put a major effort into the GKN (Warrior) bid for a Turkish Army requirement for a new armoured personnel carrier (APC). In January, the Turks announced their decision to enter contract negotiations with FMC of the USA, placing Warrior third behind a German vehicle. The GKN vehicle was more expensive but was the only vehicle providing a clear technical advance over their existing APCs. The financial assessment, of which a copy has been obtained, indicates that proper credit was not given to a number of GKN's figures, including those indicating low through-life costs and good export prospects. A number of figures quoted for the US vehicle were frankly not credible.

3. UK companies have also been shortlisted for three other major forthcoming projects: Racal for a gun fire-control system, Marconi

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and Plessey separately for a man-portable radio and BAe for a further low-level air defence requirement, offering a new version of their already successful Rapier missile. We hope to obtain one of these major projects for the UK. This would provide an opportunity for high technology work and a direct and long-lasting UK involvement in Turkey's defence industrial sector.

4. Considerable publicity has also been given in Turkey to possible interest in a purchase of Tornado aircraft. BAe and Panavia have been pushing for a sale for at least five years and Sir Ray Lygo, Chief Executive BAe, submitted a further proposal for 24 Aircraft (£630m) on 15 March. However, we have not been able to identify sufficient Government/commercial credit for the number of aircraft which the Turks would require (40). It is also unlikely that we would be able to meet the very heavily subsidized terms that would be necessary to achieve a positive Turkish decision. In any case, we do not regard the project as viable in view of Turkey's existing commitment to procure 160 new UK F16 aircraft.

Human Rights

5. In January Turkey signed both the United Nations and European Conventions against Torture. On 25 February the Grand National Assembly (the Turkish Parliament) ratified the European Convention - the first country to do so. While these are steps in the right direction, allegations of abuses of human rights persist. The military and the police political department are particularly tough in their dealings with the Kurdish minority, and it is believed that systematic brutality may be used against those suspected of involvement in, or aid to, the insurgency in the south-east, where Kurdish terrorists committed many massacres of innocent civilians in 1987 and may be gearing up for more activity this Spring. While refusing to recognise the Kurds as an ethnic group, the Government has recently made concessions to prisoners held in military prisons following a hunger strike among Kurdish prisoners. These include the right to speak languages other than Turkish to visiting relatives.

6. No specific date has been set for the trial of Kutlu and Sargin, two Communist leaders who were arrested on their return to Turkey last November. Among the charges made against them are inciting rebellion, sedition and spreading Communist propaganda. In total these could result in sentences of over 500 years, although it is thought that the Public Prosecutor is aiming for sentences of between 8 and 15 years. The trial will be an important test case of Turkey's political maturity and human rights. If the two are given draconian sentences, this will do considerable harm to Turkey's image in Europe and damage the Government's effort to join the EC, especially among countries where there is a strong human rights lobby.