

MR. POWELL

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Chaker. CD . . .  
I have misseen the FCO  
letter. But you may be interested  
to see this memo. MGA

Tim Flesher rang me yesterday and mentioned a point about Turkey and visas. Apparently the Foreign Office are providing a note on this for the Prime Minister's visit but Tim thought you might like to be aware of some of the background from his point of view.

Tim notes that we are beginning to get large numbers of Turks claiming asylum and that we are in effect in a pre-Tamil situation. Five hundred such applications are likely this year, and the numbers are accelerating. There may at some point be a huge rush. Sooner or later, a visa requirement will be needed to resolve the problem.

The Turks - neither the asylum seekers nor Mr. Ozal - will like the idea and the FCO take a predictably hostile view of it. Furthermore, many of those seeking asylum have very large families with them, and are threatening all sorts of horrors including infanticide unless they are admitted.

On the other hand, only Italy of the major European countries does not have a visa regime for Turkey and those countries which do seem nonetheless to have perfectly decent relationships with Mr. Ozal.

Tim's view is that the introduction of visas may well in the end be inevitable for Turkey and that the Prime Minister ought to have this point in mind for the visit.

MGA 31/3

MARK ADDISON

31 March 1988

FILE  
DA  
PC

PRIME MINISTER

## VISIT TO TURKEY: VISAS

You should be aware of the problem dealt with in the attached papers about immigrants from Turkey. In essence we are one of the few countries in Europe which does not require visas from Turks. But we are having to refuse entry to growing numbers of Turks and also face problems with asylum seekers.

Unless there is an improvement, the Home Office envisage that we might have to contemplate imposing visas on Turks (although that does not actually affect the asylum problem). The Turks would take that as a great insult: they are trying to get other Europeans to remove their visa requirements. It is not a happy subject to have to tackle during a visit intended to improve relations. But you may at least have to put down a marker that we have a problem and would welcome anything he can do to ease it.

(C.D. POWELL)

31 March 1988