

E. R.
PRIME MINISTER

YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW

You are to have a Press Conference with Mr. Ozal at the Airport tomorrow morning. It will be held in a large conference room and will be filmed and recorded. It is possible that parts of it will be broadcast live.

As this is a joint Press Conference on Turkish soil, I understand that Mr. Ozal will conduct it. Both of you are expected to give short opening statements.

Inevitably the media's interest will be dominated by the hijack and we shall be in touch with London early tomorrow morning for the latest news. I shall be at the Residence for 0730 for briefing purposes.

The Press have been buzzing with rumour today that the Turks have been trying to get the hostages to transit through Turkey tomorrow. We have made it absolutely clear that this idea was never mentioned in your talks today and that we know nothing of it. (It is to be hoped that the Turks do not succeed in this, if they are trying to do so, because it would be seen as your trying to cash in with publicity from the plight of hostages).

Other issues likely to arise are:

- Turkish membership of the EC. Though there has been less interest in this than I thought there would be;
- Cyprus - in which some sections of the British media, particularly the BBC, are showing a lively interest;
- Contracts - and particularly defence sales in which the popular media are taking a close interest;
- human rights (simply because they have not arisen in your talks); possibly linked with the arrest of two British evangelists in Turkey for evangelising;
- your impressions of Turkey.

Charles has done a speaking note attached.

I suggest you should speak very briefly by way of opening a Press Conference, bearing in mind your several speeches on arrival and today. But in doing so you should summarise your impressions of Ankara and your desire for the British to help develop Turkey. The Turks will want to hear your impressions. CONTENT?

7 April 1988

Bernard Ingham