

CONFIDENTIAL

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MDHIAN 8997

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FM ANKARA  
TO IMMEDIATE DTI  
TELNO OTTER 0090  
OF 110805Z MAY 88  
INFO PRIORITY FCO, ISTANBUL  
INFO ROUTINE TOKYO

*ms*

FOR WHEELER PEP1

YOUR TELES NOS OTTER 106-108:  
THIRD BOSPHORUS BRIDGE AND ISTANBUL EXPRESSWAY

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1. I DELIVERED THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE MAYOR OF ISTANBUL ON 10 MAY. DALAN SAID THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL BUT THAT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL STUDIES ON THE BRIDGE PROJECT WOULD TAKE TIME, NOT JUST MONEY. TIME HE COULD NOT AFFORD. THE ITALIANS HAD BEEN TO SEE HIM THAT DAY: THEIR CREDIT OFFER IN SUPPORT OF THE ITALIAN BID WAS AVAILABLE FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO MONTHS. AND, IF HE DELAYED, ANKARA BUREAUCRATS WOULD DOUBTLESS TRY EVEN HARDER TO SABOTAGE HIS PLANS. (THE PRIME MINISTER AGAIN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY ON 9 MAY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NEW PUBLIC INVESTMENT THIS YEAR).
2. DALAN SAID THAT HE HAD ONLY SUGGESTED A COMBINED PROJECT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO DO A SERVICE TO ANGLO-TURKISH RELATIONS AND A FAVOUR TO THE PRIME MINISTER (FOR WHOM HE HAD GREAT ADMIRATION) BY PREVENTING TH/CB BEING CUT OUT OF THE BRIDGE PROJECT. IN THE LIGHT OF HER LETTER, HE THOUGHT THE BEST COURSE WAS TO GO AHEAD WITH THE EXPRESSWAY PROJECT IMMEDIATELY. IT WOULD BE AWARDED TO TWECK, IN WHICH TARMAC WAS THE MAIN ELEMENT. STFA WOULD GET THE BRIDGE. STEEL FOR IT WOULD BE BOUGHT WHEREVER IT WAS BEST AND CHEAPEST: UNFORTUNATELY BRITAIN SEEMED UNLIKELY TO PROVE COMPETITIVE AGAINST SPAIN.
3. AT NO POINT DID DALAN ASK FOR MORE AID FOR EITHER PROJECT.
4. HAVING SAID THAT IMMEDIATE CONCLUSION OF THE CONTRACT WITH TARMAC WAS CERTAINLY THE RIGHT COURSE, I ASKED ABOUT THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE RIVAL BIDS TO TH/CB FOR THE BRIDGE. WAS HE CONFIDENT? DALAN SAID THAT

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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHOSEN DESIGN SUFFICIENTLY AUTHORITATIVE TO SATISFY INTERNATIONAL INSURERS AND FINANCIERS WAS, OF COURSE, NECESSARY: HE INTENDED TO COMMISSION IT, PROBABLY FOR THE STFA PROPOSAL.

5. DALAN, IN ASKING THAT MESSAGES OF RESPECT, GOODWILL ETC BE FORWARDED TO THE PRIME MINISTER, SAID THAT HE WANTED TO STRESS THAT THE EXPRESSWAY PROJECT WAS HALF AS BIG AGAIN AS THE BRIDGE: BRITAIN WAS FAR FROM BEING NEGLECTED.

6. SEE MIFT FOR COMMENT

DAUNT

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