

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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2 June 1989

David Charles

CDP 2/6.

VISAS FOR TURKEY

The Home Secretary has been considering the timing of the announcement of the imposition of the visa requirement for Turkey.

We had hoped to avoid an announcement until a few days before the introduction of the visa regime, which it now seems clear must be 23 June. Despite reports in the press in Turkey and here that visas would be introduced on 23 June, we still considered it worth delaying the announcement in order to avoid the influx of substantial numbers of passengers seeking to enter the United Kingdom before the imposition of visas, as happened in 1986 after the announcement of visas for Indian sub-continent nationals. But the unequivocal terms in which the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Ozal, announced the decision during the press conference which he had after his meeting with the Prime Minister in Brussels (Istanbul TELNO 241) have effectively removed any remaining operational advantages in delaying the announcement. The Home Secretary therefore sees no point in continuing to hedge for the next fortnight. He therefore proposes to make a low key announcement in answer to an arranged Parliamentary Question early next week. A draft of the proposed Parliamentary Question and Answer will be cleared with the FCO on Monday.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Stephen Wall (FCO), Steven Catling (Lord President's Office), Neil Thornton (DTI) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

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