

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 June 1989

Dear Charles,

Turkey: Visa Regime

When the Prime Minister discussed a visa regime for Turkey with the Turkish Prime Minister at the NATO Summit on 30 May, Mr Ozal expressed the hope that we would contemplate multiple-entry visas for officials and genuine businessmen.

Last week, our Ambassador in Ankara was summoned by the Turkish MFA and told that Mr Ozal had asked personally that we should go further than he had suggested to the Prime Minister and exempt all holders of official passports from the visa requirement; if we did not, Turkey would implement a reciprocal visa requirement from 1 August 1989 for all British "office holders" (Ministers, MPs diplomats, civil servants, etc).

In conjunction with the Home Office, we have considered Mr Ozal's requests. We can agree without difficulty to issue multiple-entry visas for officials and businessmen demonstrating a need for frequent travel to the UK. But it would be unprecedented for us to exempt from the visa regime all those Turks (possibly as many as 10,000) who hold official passports, or to issue to them multiple-entry visas automatically on demand. This would create enormous problems with other countries, particularly the five Commonwealth nations for which a visa regime exists and for whose official passport holders no exceptions are made.

The Turks have made much of the point that, although we claimed that we would be falling into line with the majority of our Community partners by introducing a visa regime, other Community states do exempt from the visa requirement holders of official passports. It is true that the main countries concerned (the FRG and France) have exempt arrangements for holders of official passports. (But they, unlike us, have stricter internal controls (hotel registration etc.) which enable them to keep track of visitors inside their borders.)

Since the Turks clearly attach importance to this matter, and the request came personally from Mr Ozal, the Foreign Secretary recommends that our reply should be conveyed in a personal message from the Prime Minister. I enclose a draft, which has been cleared with the Home Office. It goes as far as the Foreign Secretary believes we should to meet the Turkish requests.

/I

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

I am sending copies of this letter to Alex Allan (HM Treasury), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence), Colin Walters (Home Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

DEPARTMENT: Prime Minister

TEL. NO:

CH2AAN
Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Copies to:

Top Secret

Mr Ozal

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

HE is Turgut Ozal
PM 30/5
When we met in Brussels on 30 May, we discussed our decision to introduce a visa regime for Turkish nationals and you expressed the hope that we would grant multiple-entry visas to businessmen and officials.

We have considered your request and I am glad to say that we can agree to issue multiple-entry visas to businessmen who can demonstrate their need to travel frequently to the United Kingdom. We are also prepared to issue ^{multiple-entry} such visas to those holders of diplomatic passports who qualify on the same basis.

Last week, Mr Ozceri conveyed through our Ambassador in Ankara your further request that we should exempt all holders of official passports from the visa regime altogether. We have visa regimes for a number of countries, including some members of the Commonwealth, with whom we also have close ties. We considered the possibility of making a similar concession when their visa regimes were introduced but concluded that we could

Enclosures flag(s)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

.....
In Confidence

not do so - not least because of the very large numbers potentially involved (in the case of India, for example running to hundreds of thousands). I very much regret that, after the most careful consideration, we have had to conclude that we cannot meet your request on this further point. Given the way in which our particular immigration controls work (in contrast to a number of other European countries we place greater reliance on controls at the point of entry, but have much more relaxed internal controls), such a concession would ~~create~~ ^{cause} very great difficulties for us. It would create grave problems for us in our relations with ~~those~~ ^{the} Commonwealth countries if we were now to make to you a concession we were unable to make to them.

I am, however, glad to be able to tell you that to ease matters for Turkish official passport holders, multiple-entry visas will be issued to them free of charge and valid for as long a period as possible.

EM

Name: Poling Pt 3



22 M