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To EC

Rj: Ankara, UKREP Smarab

M. P.T: Turkey's application - to EC
membership

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
Ankara, 20th September, 1989
SERIAL No. T 1244/89

Dear Prime Minister,

I was hoping to be present at the IDU Meeting in Tokyo which would have given me the opportunity and the pleasure of seeing You again. However, at the last moment I had to change my plans. I would, therefore, like to take up through this message, an important issue which I had hoped to discuss with You. It is about our application for full membership to the EC and our expectations thereof. In fact it is to request once again Your kind attention and assistance.

Our application has entered an important phase, as the Commission is expected to submit its report to the Council before the end of this year. It has a vital significance for us that the Commission's opinion should be a definitive one and have positive content, acknowledging the eligibility of Turkey for full membership. Turkey has answered in detail all the questions posed by the Commission to finalize its report. I may, therefore, say that the Commission is now in possession of all the data and information on our economic and social situation and outlook. I am firmly convinced that on the basis of all this work, the Commission should now be in a position to produce a final report.

Such a final report should enable us to make progress on the long process of our adhesion. What we must try to avoid is the stagnation of our full membership process right at its initial stages.

We are aware that the Community is now deeply involved in efforts aimed mainly at further consolidating the EC, and that, above all, the realization of the internal market by the year 1993 consumes much of the efforts of the member countries.

On the other hand, we should also take into consideration the firm expectation of our public opinion for a timely progress of our application. The Turkish people, encouraged by our economic liberalization and deeply involved in adaptation to the Community, rely on the unique nature of our relations with the EC for a positive evaluation of our application on its own merits.

Being conscious of all these factors, we deem it possible to reconcile Your concerns with our expectations. In this context, once past the stage of the opinion of the Commission, we are aware that the process of our accession may take some time, including the time necessary for the Council to take a decision on the opening of negotiations, as well as the duration of the negotiations themselves.

Indeed, time is also what we need as well to prepare ourselves for integration without causing difficulties for the Community. However, my country needs also a definite signal in not too distant a date as to where she stands on her full membership. An unduly prolonged uncertainty on this issue may not only render the eventual integration of Turkey to the EC more difficult but also affect the domestic thinking and economic options of my country.

A declaration of the political will of the Community before 1993 will serve to clear any doubts in this regard and will give the necessary impetus to our integration process. It will encourage the inflow of foreign capital into Turkey, helping her to attain a higher level of development which in turn should alleviate the burden on member countries. Such a signal may also permit, among others, to assist us in realizing the customs union with the EC within the foreseen time frame.

Allow me, Prime Minister, to reiterate that, in view of the strong consensus in Turkey in favour of full membership, our public is awaiting a positive development. At this stage, it can only be realized by a final Commission report acknowledging the eligibility of Turkey for full membership and opening the way to the further phases of accession.

I should be very grateful if You would be so kind as to do Your best in assisting us in the fulfillment of these expectations.

With kind regards,

TURGUT OZAL

Prime Minister of
the Republic of Turkey

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher M.P.
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland