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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
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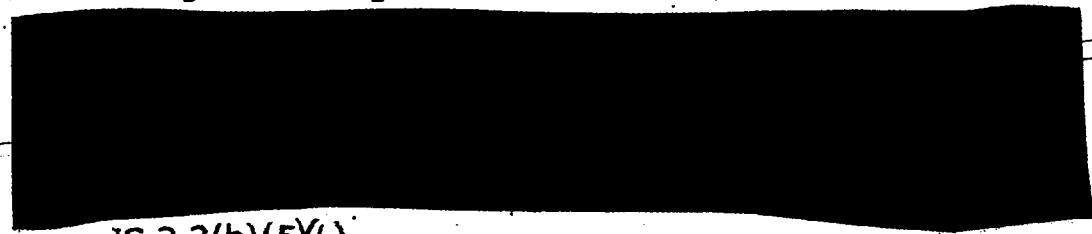
JCSM-430-77
10 November 1977

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WMS
Date: FEB 29 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Views on the Military Implications of the Present Situation with Respect to Turkey (U)

1. (U) Reference a memorandum by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), I-11460/77, 6 October 1977, on the above subject.
2. (S) A review of the Turkish situation confirms NATO Secretary General Luns' recent warning that the United States may be easing Turkey out of the Alliance and shows a further deterioration in the overall capabilities of the Turkish Armed Forces. Although it does not appear that major policy decisions are imminent, Turkey is continuing to review its military relations with the United States and NATO.
3. (S/NOFORN) Turkey's standing force of nearly 500,000 men, its control of the Straits, and, particularly, its defense arrangements with the United States and NATO compel the Warsaw Pact to dedicate approximately 25 divisions and 800 aircraft which would be otherwise deployed. Due to its unique geographic position, Turkey provides to the United States and NATO a major military infrastructure which includes:



IS 3.3(b)(5)(6)

~~Classified by Director, 0-5~~
~~SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION~~
~~SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652~~
~~AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO~~
~~YEAR INTERVALS~~
~~DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1985~~

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- c. Major fuel reserve depots for the 6th Fleet and NATO.
 - d. Wartime bases for over 200 US combat aircraft.
 - e. A major communications network supporting US and NATO operations and US activities in the eastern Mediterranean.
4. ~~(S)~~ Provisions of the US arms embargo have had a severe adverse impact upon the combat readiness of the Turkish Armed Forces. For example, 25-60 percent of Turkey's major weapon systems are nonoperable, and less than 50 percent of its 350 NATO-dedicated aircraft are flyable. This situation is exacerbating anti-US feelings within the Turkish Armed Forces.
5. ~~(S)~~ ~~(NOFORN)~~ As a tactic, Turkey could partially withdraw from the NATO military command structure. Such a move would be a blow to the solidarity of the Alliance. Should the Turks conclude that no change in US policy is forthcoming, they could withdraw from NATO altogether. The ongoing rapprochement with the Soviets would be accelerated, and Turkey would be under strong pressure to reach an overall accommodation with the USSR. This probably would be followed by the acquisition of Soviet arms and possible Turkish support of interests inimical to the United States in a future Middle East crisis. Despite the historical animosity between these two countries, the Turks will perceive few alternatives to accommodation with the Soviets.
6. ~~(S)~~ The immediate need is to reverse the accelerating trend of operational deficiencies in the Turkish Armed Forces. The serious long-term need is to prevent the permanent erosion of the US-Turkish security relationship and the possible loss of a NATO Ally. A reassessment of the US approach toward Turkey in the overriding context of US and NATO security interests is considered appropriate, including the objective of rapid congressional action on the US-Turkish Defense Cooperation Agreement.

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7. (U) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that a memorandum, substantially like that contained in the Appendix, be forwarded to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



DAVID C. JONES
Acting Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment

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Office of the Secretary of Defense
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