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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

13 FEB 1975

Honorable Ilhami Sancar  
Minister of Defense  
Ankara, Turkey

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date:

Dear Mr. Minister:

JUN 15 2018

I am deeply concerned over the interruption in United States security assistance to Turkey. For many years the United States, through the security assistance program and other means, has assisted Turkey in fulfilling the Turkish national objective of full participation in international security relationships. In my view reinstatement of the security assistance program is vital to the effective continuance of these relationships and we are seeking to do this.

I have pointed out in a recent television interview the importance we attach to United States assistance to Turkey. Turkey is the prime example of successful mutual security. With approximately 500,000 men under arms and, like the United States, an annual defense expenditure of about 5 percent of GNP, Turkey is a key element in NATO. We sometimes criticize our NATO allies for not doing enough. Turkey is one ally that is doing enough. Without an armaments industry and without the advantage of being in a position to earn large amounts of foreign exchange, security assistance in the form of military hardware permits Turkey to exert major influence in the worldwide military equilibrium necessary for continued peace and security.

It is important to our mutual security interests that security assistance be reinstated as soon as possible. To this end I feel that it is important to maintain an open channel of military to military communications between Turkey and the United States. I will welcome your views on this matter at any time and wish to reassure you of my continued and intensive efforts to achieve a satisfactory resolution of this issue.

With warm, personal regards,

Sincerely,

*James R. Schlesinger*

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 15 JUN 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 50 U.S.C. § 552

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