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24 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR Major General John A. Wickham, Jr.
Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Turkish Aid Cut-Off

Over the last two days I have had the opportunity to talk to some of the staff people working on the Turkey issue for Eagleton, Brademas, et al.

A couple of general impressions emerged:

(1) Certainly Eagleton and perhaps his colleagues in the Greek lobby in the House as well would welcome some excuse to agree to an extension of the February 5 cut-off date. However, they would need a gesture from the Turks which the present state of the Clerides-Denkash talks does not ^{put} forward. Of course they blame the Turks for stalling these conversations and see no real possibility under present circumstances to extend the February 5 date.

(2) They are closely consulting with such "Shadow Cabinet" figures as George Ball and Cy Vance. The advice they seem to be getting from these sources is that from earlier experience in dealing with the Turks they are indeed susceptible to tough bargaining tactics and that the Congress should not be overly impressed with alarms from the Administration on possible Turkish reaction after February 5.

(3) All agree that the \$230 million letter of offer on tank modernization was tactically useful for the Greek lobby cause. It is understood that this item was sent to Congress in strict accordance with the law but it is obvious that the staffers and advisors to the Greek lobby had found it advantageous in projecting in the press that the image of the Administration trying to breach its understanding with the Congress that it would not stuff goodies into the Turkish stocking at an increased rate before the cut-off date.

I don't know what the relationship between the Secretary and Ball/Vance is, but a conversation there might be useful where the two are clearly acting as the brain trust of this operation.

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HBJ
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