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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

SECDEF HAS SEEN
10 JUN 1981

POLICY

June 10, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Setting the Tone in Our Discussions with the Turks.

It may be useful to stress that we understand the importance of building up the defense of Eastern Turkey. While this same defense will deter Soviet attacks in South-west Asia, we could usefully tell the Turks that we do not intend to highlight this fact in public statements.

The Turks like to be regarded as Europeans and full-fledged members of NATO; they do not want to be treated simply as hosts for our forces. They want their own defenses improved. And they like to be reassured that we and other Europeans hold that any Soviet strike on Turkey would evoke the NATO guarantee that "an attack on one is an attack on all." They are still sensitive that this was called into question by President Johnson in a letter in 1964 which said that if they landed in Cyprus to protect Turkish minorities and the Soviets attacked Turkey we would have to consider whether this guarantee applied.

The Turks themselves have a direct interest, not only in the defense of their territory, but in the security of oil in the Upper Persian Gulf. (They were badly hurt by the increase in oil prices after 1973 and again after the Iran-Iraq War.) They know that Soviet control would mean the ruin of Turkey and of NATO's protection of Turkey, and they have recognized that Soviet invasion of Iran would be the first step in an operation that could end up in annexing the Eastern Provinces of Turkey to the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. (They relate this prospect to the terrorism by the Armenian Secret Army against Turkish diplomacy.)

They are subject to great pressure from the Soviets rather than the Arab States (who accept the fact that Turkey is aligned to the West). The Turks have told us this directly.

Fred C. Ikle
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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
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ENTIRE TEXT

380-83-0104, 4x26, Turkey (Ann-Decl)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS
AND
ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- (S) Theme: Need for greater Turkish role/support of US SWA strategy.
- (U) Your Key Issues
- (S) Changing Nature of Soviet Threat and Implications For SWA. The Allies must find ways to cooperate in deterring Soviet intrusion into the Persian Gulf area. Turkey can play a key role, both as a point of countervailing force and by facilitating projection of US power in SWA contingencies TAB A
- (S) NATO Colocated Operating Bases. We have been waiting since April for Turkish agreement to our proposal for joint use of certain Turkish airfields in time of NATO crisis or war. TAB B
- (S) Exercises and Other Near-Term US Initiatives in Turkey. Three near-term things which we could do are: (1) increasing combined exercises; (2) increasing staff exchanges between US and Turkey; and (3) [REDACTED] Increasing these activities will serve to demonstrate to the Turks the commitment of US and NATO to their security and interests and will indirectly serve our interests in SWA. TAB C
- (U) Turkish Key Issues
- (S) Need for US Support of Turkish Modernization Plan. The Turks have developed a five-year modernization plan, calling for \$600 million level of US security assistance annually. We can make no commitment beyond our DECA "best efforts" pledge. TAB D
- (S) Tank Modernization. The Turks want M-60 tanks (not excess to our needs) at low cost and help with a M48 rebuild program (which we are prepared to support). TAB E
- (S) Status of Congressional Action on FY82 Security Assistance Request. House and Senate have yet to compromise differences on substituting a degree of grant MAP for our proposed concessional FMS credit. We are attempting to influence Congress to ensure a commensurate degree of financial relief for Turkey (and others). TAB F

OSD 3.2(b)(6)

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- (Z) Industrial Cooperation. The Turks are disappointed with slow progress, which primarily reflects their own indecision in selecting promising projects and allocating appropriate FMS credits. TAB G
- (Z) US-Greek DECA Negotiations. The Turks are watching closely our base negotiations with the Greeks and will need to be reassured that we are mindful of Turkish interests. TAB H

(U) Background

Luncheon Toast TAB I

Itinerary TAB J

Memcons (Sec Def - Dep Prime Minister Ozal;
Sec Def - Foreign Minister Turkmen;
Sec Def - MOD Bayulken;
Gen Oztorum - West
MOD Bayulken - West) TAB K

Bios TAB L

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