

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONMEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call to Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister
Notetaker: Robert Hutchings

DATE, TIME August 1, 1989, 3:40 - 3:47 pm EDT
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President initiated the call and began by saying he had received President Evren's letter about the terrible situation of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. (U)

Prime Minister Ozal said it was a very bad situation. The number of those who have emigrated to Turkey is now up to 230,000. (U)

The President said he would call President Evren later to assure him of U.S. support. The President said he also wanted to mention Cyprus, which had been discussed at the Paris Economic Summit and which several West European leaders had asked the President to discuss with Prime Minister Ozal and President Evren. The President said that the U.S. and Turkey want the same thing: a Cyprus settlement that will unite the island and protect the security of all Cypriots. The talks led by the U.N. Secretary General have been delayed. The President expressed the hope that they can get underway again. Cypriot leaders seem to be committed to work with the Secretary General. (Ø)

Prime Minister Ozal said that everything had been going alright until the demonstrations by the Greek Cypriots. Marchers had crossed the border and were detained by Turkish Cypriot police. All have now been released. The Turkish Cypriot people, however, feel the talks should be delayed. (Ø)

The President replied that the U.S. view is strongly in favor of getting the talks going again. This is the best opportunity for a settlement. (U)

Prime Minister Ozal agreed, but said that every time they begin, something happens -- on the other side. The Prime Minister did feel the talks would resume, however. (U)

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The President noted that the U.S. special Cyprus coordinator is in Ankara and will be going to Athens and Cyprus, and expressed the hope that his visit would be useful. The President said he would also mention to President Evren his appreciation for the letter and also touch on Cyprus. (U)

Prime Minister Ozal expressed his concern over the situation in Lebanon and his sorrow over the death of Colonel Higgins. (U)

The President said that the American people are shocked. It is very hard to know what to do, because these people act in very shadowy ways. (U)

The Prime Minister said that Turkey would help in any way it can. (U)

The President thanked the Prime Minister and asked that he call immediately if the Turkish Government learned anything through intelligence sources. If anyone could find a way to free the hostages, he would be a great hero to the American people. (U)

The Prime Minister said that he would try, perhaps through the Iranians, who may be able to help. (U)

The President agreed that Iran may be in a mood to be more helpful and repeated his request for any assistance Turkey might be able to provide. (U)

The Prime Minister assured the President that Turkey would help as much as possible. (U)

The President repeated that he would try to call President Evren later in the day. (U)

Prime Minister Ozal, concluding, asked whether the President could help in dealing with Bulgaria, perhaps through the Soviets. (U)

The President replied that the United States does not have much influence with Bulgaria but promised to mention the matter to General Scowcroft and Secretary Baker. (U)

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