

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File
Turkey

April 29, 1996

Mrs. Rochelle Sobel
11769 Gainsborough Rd.
Potomac, MD 20854

Dear Mrs. Sobel:

Ambassador Grossman told me about the tragic death of your son in a bus accident in Turkey. I know how inadequate words are to console a parent who has lost a child, but I hope you will accept my deepest sympathy.

The Ambassador also told me of your work to try to publicize the importance of road safety for Americans abroad. I wish you success in this important endeavor. I know you are working closely with the State Department, and trust you will continue to do so. They play a significant and positive role in getting the right kind of information out to our citizens.

I regret that we were not able to plant a tree in your son's memory during my trip to Turkey. I understand that you and Ambassador Grossman have agreed that he will plant a tree in your son's honor on the Embassy grounds with an appropriate plaque. I hope this will bring you some solace and be a tangible reminder to official and private Americans of the need to take care while traveling by road in Turkey.

Again, please accept this letter as an expression of sympathy for your loss and admiration for the work you are doing.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Ambassador Marc Grossman



AMBASSADOR OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ANKARA, TURKEY

April 5, 1996

Dear Melean:

I trust your trip to Greece and then back to Washington was successful. Everything seems so long ago after the news of Ron Brown's death.

I talked to you on the flight from Izmir to Istanbul about Mrs. Sobel and her son. You agreed that you might be prepared to send a letter from Mrs. Clinton to Mrs. Sobel. We agreed that I would provide you a draft.

Thank you all again for coming to Turkey.
Mrs. Clinton was fantastic.

Many thanks in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marc Grossman', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Marc Grossman

Ms. Melean Verver,
Deputy Chief of Staff
for Mrs. Clinton,
The White House

file Turkey

MEMORANDUM

To: Lissa and Melanne
Fr: Sabrina *Se*
Re: Reaction to Southern Europe column
Da: June 17, 1996

I spoke with Julieta Noyes about Robert Sexton's email critiquing HRC's Southern Europe column.

While there are some points in Mr. Sexton's letter that are completely wrong, there are others that are a bit trickier to respond to. The problem is that Mrs. Clinton's speech in Turkey (and by extension, her column) was designed for a Turkish audience, and as such, emphasized the positive. Some of Mr. Sexton's arguments are correct.

Issues such as the Armenian "genocide" and religious tolerance are extremely sensitive politically. The State Department could try to draft a carefully-worded, nuanced response, but given the visceral tone of this guy's email, Julieta is not sure it would make much difference. In addition, State would like to avoid having to address some of these issues at all.

Her advice is to ignore Mr. Sexton's email unless he follows up with a written letter -- unless either of you think differently.

From: RDSexton, 73557,3463
To: Creators Syndicate, 71154,1271
Date: Thu, Apr 18, 1996, 11:25 PM
RE: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Dear Mrs. Clinton-

I read with dismay your column (as published on Compuserve) of April 2, 1996. In it you made a terribly erroneous statement concerning Turkey.

You wrote that "Turkey has a long history of religious tolerance, having been the birthplace of Orthodox Christianity...". That is wrong on two counts. First, Turkey is not the birthplace of Orthodox Christianity. The Orthodox Church properly regards its founding as being on the day of Pentecost in 33 AD in Jerusalem. Turkey simply did not exist at that time nor is Jerusalem within its borders.

Of far more importance is the claim that Turkey has a history of religious tolerance. In the face of the fact that Turkey is regularly cited for its dismal human rights record this is utter nonsense. At the turn of the century, the population of Turkey was one-fourth Christian. Since then, through a continuous campaign of persecution virtually all Christians have been driven out. In 1950 there were 250,000 Greek Orthodox Christians in Constantinople. Today there are perhaps 2,500. It is small comfort to realize that this is the largest Christian group in that whole country. That is why today the population of Turkey is over 99% muslim. That is "predominantly muslim" indeed!

How would you explain Turkey's supposed tolerance to the 1,000,000 Armenians slaughtered in this centuries first holocaust? How would you explain it to the thousands upon thousands of Greeks who died at Smyrna in 1922? How would you reconcile that tolerance to the 1,250,000 Greeks pushed out of Turkey in 1922 in an internationally recognized act of ethnic cleansing? How do you tell the Greeks of Cyprus that Turkey has a record of tolerance when they have been exiled from their homes, their property confiscated and their churches desecrated? For twenty-two years the world watched as the US wrung its hands and then sent military aid to that same invader?

If Turkey is so tolerant, why has the theological seminary at Halki been closed by the Turkish government for two decades? Why did it take forty years and the intervention of Jimmy Carter to gain the approval of the Turkish government to rebuild the Patriarchate in Constantinople? For forty years it remained fire damaged while an obstinate Turkish government refused permission to rebuild. Is that evidence of religious tolerance?

I hope, while you were in Constantinople, you had an opportunity to visit the AyaSofya museum. If you had, you might have reflected on the history of that place and that city. Perhaps it would have occurred to you that alone among the great capitals of Europe, Constantinople is the only one still occupied by a foreign power. London is English. Paris is French. Rome is Italian. But Constantinople, the city created by a Roman emperor as the first truly Christian city, is now occupied by a state bent on eradicating every last vestige of Christianity from within its borders (unless it can be hawked for tourist dollars).

If you had visited that museum you would, of course, have been reminded that this was once a Christian Church, Hagia Sophia, the Church of the Holy Wisdom, the greatest church in Chritendom. In 1453, it was appropriated for a mosque after the priests and people within had been slaughtered. When you walk in that place you walk on the blood of martyrs and, like Abel, their blood cries out from the ground for justice. For over 500 years there has been no justice nor will there be justice while Turkey is pandered to with words like yours.

Robert D. Sexton
3225 W. Minarets

From: RDSexton, 73557,3463
To: Creators Syndicate, 71154,1271
Date: Thu, Apr 18, 1996, 11:25 PM
RE: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Fresno, CA 93711
209-431-4817

TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The lighting of the Olympic flame amid the ancient ruins of Olympia, Greece, is a simple and solemn affair. There are no marching bands, no fancy commercials, no play-by-play commentary, just a silent dance to the Greek gods punctuated by the beat of a single drum.

Watching this remarkable event on the grassy spot where the original Games were held more than 2,500 years ago, I was reminded not only of the enduring power of Western civilization but also of the democratic ideals we are still working toward today.

It turned out to be the perfect place to end my week-long trip to Bosnia, Turkey and Greece. As different as these countries appear on the surface, their pasts and futures are inextricably tied to ours and to the world's -- and to the vision set forth in the earliest Olympic contests.

My first stop was Bosnia, a country that has suffered untold horror but is now trying, with international help, to create a multiethnic, multireligious democracy. Not only did I visit with religious, political and humanitarian leaders, I also spent time with American troops who are part of NATO's mission to enforce the Bosnian peace accords.

Then, I went to Turkey, a NATO partner whose importance to the United States goes well beyond its geography at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Turkey is a rarity in its region of the world because, although predominantly Muslim, it is a secular society.

At a time of increased political tensions and the rise of religious extremism in southern Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa, Turkey's role as a secular democracy becomes that much more significant to nations interested in spreading the fruits of peace and democracy.

Turkey has a long history of religious tolerance, having been the birthplace of Orthodox Christianity and a meeting point throughout history for many of the world's great religions.

While I was in Istanbul, I had a chance to meet with the leaders of the country's major religious groups -- Muslim, Jewish, Catholic and Orthodox. We talked about what they can do to make sure that religion is not used to promote fanaticism, violence

or extremism and remains a force for harmony and civility among people of different faiths.

Leaving Ankara and Istanbul, I traveled to Greece, where many of the values and institutions of modern civilization were born. Standing in the Acropolis above the city of Athens, I imagined the ancient Athenians coming to market to buy pears, figs and honey and the sounds of cobblers and sculptors making and selling their wares. I envisioned jurors assembling for court and senators taking their seats in the Athenian legislature.

Almost every aspect of our lives today has roots in classical antiquity. The words we use, the laws we follow, the medicine we practice, the ideas we believe in, the buildings we build, the plays and dramas we perform, the system of democratic government so many countries now enjoy all began with the ancient Greeks.

Since those earlier times, of course, empires have risen and fallen, wars have been won and lost, and much blood has been spilled in that part of the world. But through it all, pluralistic democracy has lived on and spread, proving to be the world's most equitable, just and productive form of government that civilization has ever known.

All of which brings me back to the Olympic Games, one of the most palpable and powerful symbols we have of the democratic values the ancient Greeks created for us.

The flame that was lit last week -- and which will guide the Games in Atlanta this summer -- burns with the spirit of Olympic contests that have taken place in Greece and around the world and the tens of thousands of athletes who have competed in them. It is a spirit that stretches back nearly 3,000 years to the first foot race held amid the orange and olive groves of Olympia.

Now, as then, the Olympic Games emphasize an inescapable dimension of the human experience -- that we are all members of one global family.

Whether through athletes competing at sports in Olympia or Atlanta, or through American, Turkish and Greek troops helping democracy grow in Bosnia, we are coming together as nations to build bridges of respect, tolerance and friendship.

It is a task that has challenged us for most of human history. But rarely has it been as urgent as it is today.

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April 2, 1996



file
Turkey

Cefi KAMHI
İstanbul Milletvekili

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Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton,
The White House,
Washington D.C.,
USA.

By Hand,

Istanbul, 28th March 1996.

Dear Mrs Clinton,

I have had some of the most enjoyable and memorable moments of my life during the past two days, with the opportunity to have met you first at the Foreign Economic Relations Board's meeting yesterday and heard your inspiring speech, and then this morning at True Path Party leader Tansu Çiller's house for breakfast.

I must also express my gratitude to you for your forbearance in bearing with me in my photo-taking and what for me was a delightfully open conversation.

Please find enclosed some prints which came out of the camera: I shall try to get better quality ones done from a better printer.

I would like to say with all sincerity that my dedication to furthering relations between our two nations has been greatly strengthened by meeting with you on this occasion, and I look forward to doing so again in the future,

Yours Sincerely,

Cefi J. Kamhi, M.P.



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

PROFILO HOLDİNG A.Ş.

Cemal Sahir Sok. No: 26-28
Mecidiyeköy-İSTANBUL - TURKEY

Jy1

Jak V. Kamhi
President

Istanbul.29.03.1996

Dear *Ms. Verver,*

It was a great honor for me to be invited to the breakfast offered by our former Prime Minister Tansu Çiller to the first Lady of the USA Mrs. Hillary Clinton.

In Turkey everybody knows and admires the dedication of Mrs. Clinton to humanity and the relentless efforts of the United States, in maintaining peace and stability and promoting human rights and democracy in the World. We are proud of being an ally of this great country.

I had the pleasure to be seated next to you. During our conversation I remarked your interest in the role of Turkey in the stability and peace process of the region. That is why I send to you a short note in which I reflect the views of Prof. Bernard Lewis and myself on which I had a nice conversation with you.

I hope you had a pleasant stay in Turkey, and that we will have once more the honor in a short time to welcome you again to our country.

Yours Faithfully,



Jak V. KAMHI

Last year during a visit by Bernard Lewis of to the Prime Minister Mrs. Tansu Çiller, Mrs. Çiller asked the professor for his views on the future of Turkey.

He answered, "Mrs. Prime Minister, I am historian and we can argue about the past but let me think about the future".

During the First World War, there were only two Islamic countries in the world, Persia (today Iran), and the Ottoman Empire. Today there are 52 states, and Turkey is the only democracy amongst them, moreover a secular state which respects human rights and is open to free markets and the world.

The beliefs of the Turkish people has always throughout the past centuries been to respect other religions, to love people and help the oppressed. Turkey is a great example for others. Your development can attract other people to follow you. You did that in the new CIS republics to the South of Turkey and you have succeeded beside all the pressures of the fundamentalist countries like Iran who have tried to attract those countries to the system. That is why I see a great future for you because all the countries which desire peace and stability in your region have to back you in your achievements.

In fact Turkey really is an important factor for the region. I remember once when I was sent by our former President Turgut Özal to Prime Minister Shamir to ascertain why he was so reluctant about the peace process with the Islamic countries of the region.

He answered me that he did not believe in pacts made with countries which are totalitarian and gave the example of Hitler who signed so many pacts between 1933 and 1939 and yet made the world a hell in 1939.

He also gave the example of the Camp David Accord, which only cost a great deal to Israel without achieving the cooperation of Egypt, and he added that if such countries were democratic ones like Turkey, that would render a very different aspect to the peace process.

I said that we should promote Turkey, which can attract other peoples to follow the example of the great nations and he agreed to promote Turkey during the celebrations of the Quincentennial of the arrival of the Sephardic Jews from Spain in the Ottoman Empire.

Our relations with Greece are also at an impasse. I have explained several times to the responsible people of Greece the importance of an area of economic growth and development in solving problems between the two countries. I gave the examples of Germany and France, Spain and Portugal, the latter example being similar to our own: in the past there had been a lot of problems and after their entry to the European Union, Spain became an important market for Portugal and all conflict was forgotten, and we know that the entry of Turkey to the European Union can do the same for Greece because Turkey, with her 65 million population and the surrounding markets could be a huge market for Greece.