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UK COMMS ONLY
FM ANKARA
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 089
OF 111230Z FEBRUARY 86
AND TO MODUK, DTI, TREASURY, CABINET OFFICE

MODUK FOR PS/S OF S

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TREASURY FOR PS/CHANCELLOR

CABINET OFFICE FOR PS/LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

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MY TELNO 084: TURKISH PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT:

PEN PICTURE OF MR OZAL

1. ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE MET MR OZAL HERE AND THE PRIME MINISTER SAT NEXT TO HIM AT LUNCH IN NEW YORK LAST AUTUMN, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO HAVE A PEN PICTURE OF HIM AND MRS OZAL.

2. PHYSICALLY HE IS MARKEDLY SHORT, FAT

LEAVES A GOOD IMPRESSION ON THOSE WHO MEET HIM. HE IS A MOST EFFECTIVE PERFORMER ON DOMESTIC TELEVISION, THOUGH THE STYLE OF THAT IS PERHAPS THIRTY YEARS OUT OF DATE BY CURRENT UK STANDARDS.

2. HIS MAIN CHARACTERISTIC IS QUIET CONFIDENCE BORN, IT SEEMS TO ME, OF A DEEP RELIGIOUS FAITH (THOUGH HE IS NOT OSTENTATIOUS ABOUT IT), A HAPPY MARRIAGE AND A CONVICTION THAT HIS POLICIES ARE RIGHT FOR TURKEY. HE SPEAKS SOFTLY BUT CLEARLY. HIS ENGLISH, THOUGH OFTEN GRAMMATICALLY INCORRECT, IS PRETTY FLUENT AND I HAVE NEVER KNOWN HIM USE AN INTERPRETER, THOUGH HE WILL SOMETIMES LOOK FOR HELP OVER THE ODD WORD. HIS FORTE IS ECONOMICS (THOUGH AN ENGINEER BY ACADEMIC BACKGROUND). BUT HIS GRASP OF WIDER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES HAS DEVELOPED MARKEDLY.

3. HE REGARDS HIS MAIN TASK IN GOVERNMENT AS BEING TO PUT TURKEY BEYOND QUESTION ON THE ROAD TO BECOMING A LIBERAL MARKET ORIENTATED ECONOMY ABLE TO HOLD ITS OWN WITH THE ECONOMIES OF TURKEY'S PARTNERS IN OECD. HE DOES NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE TASK. BUT HE BELIEVES THAT UNLESS THE OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS ARE TACKLED HEAD ON, IN A COUNTRY SUCH AS TURKEY WHERE CONSERVATISM (WITH A SMALL C) IS DEEPLY ENTRENCHED IN THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY, THEY WILL NOT BE SOLVED. RATHER THE SAME FEELING UNDERLINES HIS APPROACH TO THE

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT HE AND HIS PARTY HAVE THE BROAD BACKING OF THE ELECTORATE IN WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO. HE HAS AN ADVANTAGE IN THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS A RADICAL (IN TURKISH TERMS) IN ECONOMIC POLICY, HE IS A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONSERVATIVE.

4. HE MAINTAINS A FORMIDABLE WORK AND TRAVEL RATE, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TURKEY. FEARS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT HIS HEALTH (HEART CONDITION). I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM FLAG AND HE ALWAYS APPEARS TO HAVE TIME FOR HIS VISITORS HOWEVER CROWDED HIS SCHEDULE. BUT THE AMERICANS, WHO KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT HIS MEDICAL CONDITION, ARE RATHER WORRIED. HE IS UNQUESTIONABLY THE MAIN MOTIVE FORCE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND CURRENTLY THE DOMINANT FIGURE IN TURKISH POLITICS. HE AND PRESIDENT EVREN HAVE DEVELOPED A SOUND WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

5. I DO NOT KNOW IF HE HAS ANY PARTICULAR LEISURE INTERESTS. HIS WORK APPEARS TO BE HIS LIFE. BUT HE READS WIDELY ON CURRENT AFFAIRS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN CONVERSATION WITH PANAVIA (TORNADO) LAST WEEK, HE DREW ON GENERAL HACKETT'S "THIRD WORLD WAR" TO ILLUSTRATE A POINT.

6. MRS OZAL, LIKE HER HUSBAND, IS SHORT, SHE HAS BEEN THE BUTT OF A GOOD DEAL OF MALICIOUS PRESS CRITICISM ABOUT HER EXTRAVAGANCE AND SHE IS SAID TO BE VERY DEMANDING. BUT NEITHER MY WIFE OR I KNOW HER AT ALL WELL. SHE APPEARS AT FEW INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC OCCASIONS. THE DIPLOMATIC SCENE ON THE WIFE SIDE IS VERY MUCH DOMINATED BY MRS HALEFOGLU. ALL ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND MRS OZAL ARE DEVOTED TO EACH OTHER AND SHEE ALWAYS TRAVELS WITH HIM ON HIS TRIPS ABORAD. SHE SPEAKS LITTLE OR NO ENGLISH. SHE AND MRS GUMRUKCUOGLU, THE WIFE OF THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR, ARE FRIENDS OF LONG STANDING.

RUSSELL

LIMITED
SED
INFO D.
REG D.
PLANNING STAFF
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR EGGAR

PS/RUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR RATFORD

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