

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

You are to see the Turkish Foreign Minister tomorrow. He will be accompanied by the Ambassador and by his foreign affairs adviser. He is by reputation a charming man, and was formerly Ambassador in both Bonn and Moscow.

Generally we stand well with the Turks and the meeting should be an easy and friendly one. The trick to be won at this meeting is to convey general understanding of Turkey's reasons for seeking membership of the EC, but not to hide the difficulties. It would be a mistake to promise support; it would be misleading the Turks to suggest that they have any significant chance of success yet.

① You will want to start by recalling the success of Mr Ozal's visit to the United Kingdom, and enquire after his health.

② You might go on to deal with wider East/West issues mentioning your forthcoming visit to Washington. The prospects for a US/Soviet summit and the Alliance's success in reaching an agreed position on INF.

③ You should also mention the high priority which we attach to making progress in the Middle East - on which the Turks see themselves as having a special role - emphasising the need to support the Peres/Hussein position on an international conference. You might also mention our efforts to promote a UN Security Council resolution on the Iran/Iraq war.

④ I should leave it to him to raise EC membership. He certainly will. You can remind him of how much work the United Kingdom has put into normalising EC/Turkey relations, especially during our Presidency. There is bound to be a pause now, while the Commission consider Turkey's application and give their opinion (this may well be a matter of years). In the

meantime we hope that the Turks will make greater use of the provisions of the existing Association Agreement, which offers scope for industrial co-operation, co-operation on research and development etc. You will want to add that the Turks must be aware of all the difficulties and obstacles. Having got their application in, they would be wise to lie low and let matters rest for a while.

6 You should have a brief word about Cyprus. He may be agitated about the recent report of the House of Commons' Foreign Affairs Committee, which recommends freezing Turkey's EC application until there are significant moves towards a Cyprus settlement. We do not see any such linkage. Progress on Cyprus is going to require willingness by both sides to make concessions. Greeks at least as much as Turks. In fact, little is likely to happen until the Cyprus Presidential elections are over, later this year.

7 On the bilateral front, you will want to draw particular attention to GKN's offer of Warrior to meet Turkey's armoured personnel carrier requirement. The Government are offering generous credit support. The Turks owe us a big contract (after the Bosphorus bridge).

He may press you to take up the invitation to visit Turkey. You might say that you hope to be able to do so next year. If he mentions a possible State Visit by President Evren, you should say that we have this very much in mind.

A brief is in the folder.

C.D.P.

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