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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 February 1988

Dear Lyn,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO TURKEY

Thank you for your letter of 25 February about the programme for the Prime Minister's visit to Turkey. I agree that the programme is now in a very acceptable shape. I understand the problems with a walkabout and agree that we should leave this to be decided on the spot. I do, however, still have reservations about making a visit to a sewerage plant the high point of the Prime Minister's afternoon programme in Istanbul. The British investment does not seem to be that big. Can we really not find something more salubrious?

I am not at all sure that the Prime Minister has a burning ambition to convert an Istanbul audience to her politico/economic philosophy (to use your phrase) and I rather wonder whether the impact of a speech on this theme would warrant the amount of effort which would have to go into it. Her press and television interviews before departure will anyway be an opportunity to get over the main points. One possible alternative would be to get the audience to put questions to the Prime Minister. Another would be to use the time to make additional visits or to meet more people. In short, I am rapidly going off the idea of a speech in Istanbul and would be grateful if you could think of alternative ways of using the time.

Yours sincerely,
Charles Powell

(CHARLES POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 February 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's visit to Turkey

Ankara telno 92 (copy attached) reports the Turks' acceptance of the revisions to the programme for the afternoon and evening of 7 April, proposed in the second paragraph of your letter of 15 February. I hope that you agree that the programme is now very much on the right lines, although we have still not finally settled your point about the walkabout.

This point was covered in Paragraph 4 of Ankara telno 83 (copy attached). The idea of a walkabout is clearly a difficult one for the Turks. As Ankara suggest, we may need to keep our cards close to our chests until nearer the time. But our preliminary view is that the Prime Minister's exit from the Cankaya Primary School on the morning of 7 April would be the best bet. From the point of view of security we could be more confident about the reliability of the by-standers there than if the motorcade stopped on one of the bridges across the Golden Horn. Crowd-control too could be easier at the school than on the bridge. (If, by the way, it were the Galata bridge, which is one-way, this would be on the return journey from the visit to the Topkapi Museum. To get to the Topkapi the motorcade would have to cross the Ataturk bridge, which is one-way in the other direction.) I should be grateful to know if you wish us to try and nail this down now or leave it for further consideration.

You may like some comment on the proposed visits to Aselsan and the Yenikapi Water Treatment Plant. MOD Sales believe that Aselsan is worth including in the Prime Minister's programme. It is a modern Turkish electronics factory, which while not as impressive as our own high-tech installations, would almost certainly be involved in the local assembly component of any contract for the sale of radio equipment which British companies are pursuing. The Yenikapi plant is indeed a sewerage treatment installation, part of a project to install a new sewerage network in Istanbul and clean up the Golden Horn. The plus points are that the consultants for the project are a joint venture of John Taylor and Binnie and Partners, who did much of the design work and are



undertaking supervision; and the centre piece as far as we are concerned is a high tech chemical ozone plant (to remove the smells), worth £1.2 million, supplied by a small and fairly new British company called Ozotech.

You will have noted that it is now proposed that the Mayor of Istanbul should host the lunch on the Friday at which the Prime Minister might make a second speech. Following your letter of 22 January the Turkey Desk Officer in SED discussed the content of such a speech with HM Ambassador during a visit to Ankara a fortnight ago. Mr Daunt believed the lunch would be a good occasion for the Prime Minister to deliver a statement of her politico/economic philosophy (strict control of public sector expenditure, virtues of the free market, privatisation, personal and consumer choice, and so on). This would be in line with Mr Ozal's own philosophy and would go down well in business oriented Istanbul. If you agree with this approach, the bulk of the drafting would need to be done in No. 10. Mr Daunt and SED between them could supply additional material to link that to the local context.

The questions of accommodation for the party and gifts are being dealt with separately.

Yours ever, L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

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FM ANKARA
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 92
OF 221545Z FEBRUARY 88

FOR SED FROM HEAD OF CHANCERY

MY TELNO 83: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO TURKEY

1. WE HAVE TODAY RECEIVED A REVISED PROGRAMME FROM PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT IN THE MFA, ACCEPTING THE CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME PROPOSED IN PARA 2 OF YOUR TELNO 49. (EZEN NEVERTHELESS MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CHANGE THE TIMINIG OF THE CALL ON PRESIDENT EVREN AGAIN.)
2. SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR THE AFTERNOON OF 7 APRIL NOW THEREFORE AS FOLLOWS:

1430 DEPART FOR ASELSAN

1500-1545 TOUR OF ASELSAN

1625 ARRIVE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

1630 CALL ON PRESIDENT EVREN

1705(APPROX) RETURN TO RESIDENCE

1830 TRT INTERVIEW

1900-1945 MEET BRITISH COMMUNITY

2015 DEPART FOR ANKARA PALAS GUEST HOUSE

2030 DINNER OFFERED BY MR AND MRS OZAL.

3. ON ACCOMMODATION, EZEN SAID THAT, HAVING DISCUSSED OUR PROPOSALS AGAIN WITH HIS SUPERIORS, HE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO PUT THE MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION NOT STAYING AT THE RESIDENCE IN THE ANKARA PALAS HOTEL. GUESTS OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ALWAYS STAYED THERE: THE MFA DID NOT HAVE FINANCIAL AUTHORITY TO PAY FOR MORE THAN A FEW ROOMS AT THE

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BUYUK ANKARA (OUR PREFERRED CHOICE): SECURITY WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO ARRANGE, SINCE THE ANKARA PALAS IS A GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE: AND, WITH POLICE ESCORTS, THE TRAVELLING TIME BETWEEN CANKAYA AND THE ANKARA PALAS SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN 15 TO 20 MINUTES.

4. I EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING, BUT EXPLAINED OUR PREFERENCE TO HAVE THE DELEGATION AND THE ACCOMPANYING JOURNALISTS STAYING IN THE SAME HOTEL, AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE PRESS FACILITIES. EZEN SAID HE WOULD SEE WHETHER (EXCEPTIONALLY) ROOMS COULD BE PROVIDED AT THE ANKARA PALAS FOR ALL OF THOSE TRAVEELLING ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING JOURNALISTS. AS FOR PRESS FACILITIES, THE STAD HOTEL (4 STAR, 100 METRES FROM THE ANKARA PALAS) WAS WELL USED TO PROVIDING TELEFAX, TELEPHONE LINES, ETC FOR LARGE DELEGATIONS OF VISITING PRESS MEN, AND WOULD BE GLAD TO DO SO ON THIS OCCASION.

5. LOOKING AT THE PROGRAMME, I DO NOT THINK THAT MUCH TIME WOULD BE LOST ACCEPTING THE MFA'S OFFER OF THE ANKARA PALAS. SINCE THE DINNER ON 7 APRIL IS BEING HELD THERE, THE JOURNALISTS WOULD IN FACT HAVE MORE TIME TO FILE (BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE DINNER) THAN IF THEY WERE STAYING AT THE BUYUK ANKARA. THE ONLY TIME WHEN TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE ANKARA PALAS WILL BE LESS CONVENIENT IS AT LUNCH TIME ON 7 APRIL, ALTHOUGH THE FIRST AFTERNOON APPOINTMENT AT ASELSAN IS CONSIDERABLY NEARER THE ANKARA PALAS THAN THE EMBASSY, WHERE THE AMBASSADOR'S LUNCH WILL BE HELD. PROVIDED THE TURKS CAN TAKE THE WHOLE PARTY AT THE ANKARA PALAS, AND THE FACILITIES AT THE STAD HOTEL ARE ADEQUATE, I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WE ACCEPT.

6. I HOPE TO LET YOU HAVE FURTHER ADVICE ON GIFTS BY 1300Z ON 23 FEBRUARY.

HUMFREY

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FOR SED FROM HEAD OF CHANCERY

YOUR TELNO 49: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO TURKEY

1. I CALLED TODAY ON MEHMET EZEN, THE DEPUTY HEAD OF PROTOCOL IN THE MFA RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT, AND PUT TO HIM THE REVISED DRAFT PROGRAMME, WITH NO.10'S PROPOSED CHANGES.

2. EZEN AGREED TO SUBMIT TO OZAL WITHOUT DELAY. HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO ENSURE THAT ALL OUR CONCERNS WERE MET, AND WOULD REPORT BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE FORESAW POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PROPOSALS IN PARA 2 OF TUR: IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO MOVE THE TIMING OF THE CALL ON PRESIDENT EVREN AGAIN, AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAD HIMSELF ALREADY APPROVED THE IDEA OF 2 SESSIONS OF TALKS ON 7 APRIL. I EXPLAINED THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE TIME FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO PREPARE FOR HER TV INTERVIEW AND, LATER, TO CHANGE FOR THE OZALS' DINNER, ADDING THAT MRS THATCHER WOULD OF COURSE EXPECT TO CONTINUE HER TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT THAT OCCASION. EZEN REPEATED THAT HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO HELP.

3. ON ACCOMMODATION, I CONFIRMED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE WOULD BE STAYING AT THE RESIDENCE, AND THE REMAINDER OF THE PARTY AT THE BUYUK ANKARA HOTEL. EZEN WONDERED BRIEFLY WHY WE DID NOT WISH TO USE THE ANKARA PALAS BUT QUICKLY APPRECIATED THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS TOGETHER IN A HOTEL CLOSE TO THE EMBASSY.

4. I MENTIONED THE NEED FOR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A WALK-ABOUT ONLY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS. ADVANCE NOTICE IS LIKELY TO ENSURE A MASSIVE SECURITY PRESENCE AND PRECIOUS FEW TURKS WITH WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER COULD MINGLE. OUR VIEW IS THAT WE SHOULD NOT WRITE THE EVENT FIRMLY INTO THE PROGRAMME AT THIS STAGE, BUT KEEP THE IDEA IN MIND AS WE PLAN OTHER EVENTS. THE VISITS TO TOPKAPI/AYA SOFIA ARE INDEED UNLIKELY TO OFFER GOOD OPPORTUNITIES. THE BEST BET WOULD PROBABLY BE EITHER AS THE PRIME MINISTER LEAVES

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THE CANKAYA PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE MORNING OF 7 APRIL, OR STOPPING THE MOTORCADE ON THE (USUALLY CROWDED) GALATA BRIDGE ON THE WAY TO THE TOPKAPI MUSEUM ON 8 APRIL.

5. EZEN CONFIRMED THAT MR AND MRS OZAL WOULD BE PRESENT AT THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR THATCHER AT ANKARA AIRPORT. OZAL HAD ALSO AGREED THAT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON THEIR DEPARTURE FROM ANKARA SHOULD BE A JOINT ONE.

6. ON MR THATCHER'S PROGRAMME, THE MOST APPROPRIATE SUBSTITUTE FOR THE HITTITE MUSEUM WOULD BE THE BRITISH COUNCIL, WHO WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO ARRANGE A SHORT VISIT.

7. SEPARATE ADVICE FOLLOWS ON GIFTS.

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