

CPC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 March 1988

~~Mr. Hoggan~~ ^{HN}

to write

COP 8/3

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to Turkey:
Third Bosphorus Bridge

I had hoped by now to be in a position to let you have a fully argued note in response to your letter of 25 February about the handling of Cleveland Bridge and Engineering's efforts to secure the contract for a third Bosphorus bridge in the context of the Prime Minister's visit to Turkey. Officials of the FCO, Treasury and DTI have already put a lot of time and effort into production of such a note. But the question of how much ECGD cover will be available for this and other projects in which British firms are interested is clearly crucial. We cannot give a definitive answer until the current Market Review initiated by ECGD is completed. This is now before EGC, but the process will not be complete until next week.

In the meantime your Press Office will wish to have a steer on how to handle enquiries. Our advice, with which DTI and Treasury officials agree, is that we should make clear that Bosphorus III is only one among several projects in which British firms have an interest, in both the civil and defence fields; that the Prime Minister will be batting for British industry in general and will use her visit to support their efforts to achieve an increase in our exports to Turkey across the board; and that we see no linkage at all between British interest in Bosphorus III and other projects and Turkey's application for membership of the European Community (a point which has been a feature of advance Turkish media comment on the visit). I hope that your press people will find this line adequate, pending the full briefing we shall send you in the course of next week.

I am copying this letter to Alison Brimelow (Department of Trade and Industry) and to Alex Allan (HM Treasury).

Yours ever,
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

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