

SUBJECT cc MASTER

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*W. H. M. M.*  
*CCPC*

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*From the Private Secretary*

9 April 1988

*Dear Lynn.*

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO TURKEY:  
MEETING WITH OPPOSITION LEADER

During her visit to Turkey, the Prime Minister had a brief meeting with Professor Inonu, Leader of the SDPP, and Mr. Agagil, an SDPP Deputy.

Professor Inonu confirmed that there were very few differences between his party and the Turkish Government on foreign affairs. He emphasised the extent to which Turkey looked to the West. He supported Mr. Ozal's approach to membership of the European Community. He approved the reconciliation between Greece and Turkey, recalling that there had been a tradition of good relations in the 1930's. But he commented that Ozal would need to be very careful in his dealings with Papandreou. His comments on Cyprus were very similar to those made to the Prime Minister by Mr. Ozal.

Professor Inonu said that his party's main criticisms of the Government concerned their economic policies and their failure to take democratic reform seriously enough. High inflation meant that an unfair share of the burden of Turkey's economic adjustment was borne by the lower levels of society. He thought that the high rate of inflation was the main reason for his party's current strong showing in the opinion polls. As regards democratic reforms, there had certainly been an improvement but progress was too slow. Changes were needed in the provisions of the constitution dealing with the trade unions and the universities, and there were other similar restrictions which should be lifted.

I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Charles Powell*

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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