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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 January 1989

Dear Charles,

Turkey: Call on the Prime Minister by the
Turkish Defence Minister, Mr Ercam Vurulhan:
25 January

I wrote to you on 20 January about this call which has now been arranged for 25 January.

We still do not know precisely what points Mr Vurulhan may be raising with the Prime Minister at Mr Özal's behest apart from defence sales. They are most likely to be the CSCE, Turkey's application to join the EC, her application to join the WEU or Cyprus.

CSCE

The Defence Minister may raise questions relating to the forthcoming negotiations on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, due to start in Vienna on 6 March. The mandate for these negotiations was adopted on 17 January, after considerable difficulties over the precise area of Turkey to be excluded from the negotiations.

Further difficulties have arisen. The Turks claim that in the negotiations the flank countries will be isolated and the strategic unity of the Alliance undermined. They are also unhappy about a central area consisting only of WEU countries.

If the Defence Minister raises the subject the Prime Minister might say that we share Turkey's concern to maintain the strategic unity of the Alliance, to provide for militarily sound proposals and to avoid the appearance of isolating individual countries. We also believe these concerns have been reflected in the Alliance proposal as it now stands. It has been extensively revised to take into account the conflicting views of a number of Allies.

/WEU



WEU

In July 1988, Turkey made a formal application to join the WEU. On 19 December 1988, the Foreign Secretary, as Chairman of the WEU Ministerial Council, wrote to the Turkish Foreign Minister saying that Turkey's interest in joining would be kept under active review and proposing a high level consultative mechanism to keep Turkey abreast of developments in the WEU. We understand that the Turks are somewhat disappointed but not surprised. No final decisions on a consultative mechanism can be taken until the Turks have responded to the Foreign Secretary's letter. A memorandum was recently received from the Greek Ambassador in London formally expressing Greek interest in joining the WEU. This will be treated in the same way as Turkey's application to join. It will be considered at the WEU Spring Ministerial meeting in London on 3/4 April.

The Prime Minister might say that all WEU member states recognise the important contribution that Turkey makes to the defence of Europe as a member of the Atlantic Alliance. Turkey's application will be kept under active review while the WEU's objectives and legal structure are reconsidered, following the accession of Spain and Portugal.

EC

Mr Vurulhan may mention Turkey's application for EC membership. M. Delors told the European Parliament on 17 January that the Commission will present a "first report" to the Council of Ministers on the Turkish application before the end of 1989. The Prime Minister might reiterate the line she took during her visit to Turkey in April 1988: we cannot predict what the Commission's Opinion, or the Community's subsequent collective decision, will be, but we can assure the Turks that in any event Britain will continue to give full weight to the long history of our relations with Turkey.

Cyprus

Mr Vurulhan may congratulate the Prime Minister for urging President Vassiliou to maintain the intercommunal dialogue. He may ask her to reinforce the message with President Vassiliou. The Prime Minister might say that

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we are continuing to try to put the message across. Mr Vassiliou will be back in London in early March. If Mr Vurulhan refers to Turkish concern about a Greek Cypriot arms build-up, the Prime Minister might restate our long-standing policy: we do not sell weapons to either the Turkish Cypriot or the Greek Cypriot armed forces.

/ I enclose a personality note on Mr Vurulhan.

I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin in the Ministry of Defence.

Yours ever,
Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



VURULHAN Ercam

Turkish Defence Minister since 1987.

Graduated from Ankara University faculty of Political Sciences. In 1963 entered Foreign University as a career diplomat. Served as departmental Chief of Political Planning office, Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy in the Hague, and Head of the Foreign Ministry's Administrative Affairs General Directorate. Also served as Turkish Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and as an adviser to the Prime Minister.

Elected as a Deputy for Ankara in November 1987 elections.

Married with one child.

Speaks English and German.

Vurulhan's appointment as Defence Minister was greeted by detailed accusations of corruption in the Turkish press. Although he has survived their onslaught, there may yet be trouble ahead.

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