

Prime Minister

Ankara, 24 January 1989

My Dear Prime Minister,

The warm and positive memories of your visit to Turkey last year are still remembered by the Turkish public.

As you might recall, one of the subjects of our discussions in the course of this visit was the modernization of Turkish Armed Forces, and means and ways for a possible British contribution to the Turkish Defence industry. In this context several Turkish defence projects were mentioned as suitable for cooperation and for the transfer of British technology.

One of these projects, namely HF/SSB wireless radio communications systems project is under careful evaluation by the appropriate defence authorities in Turkey and is at a stage of final decision. I am glad to inform you that, from technical point of view, this project has been considered suitable to be accomplished with the British company, Marconi.

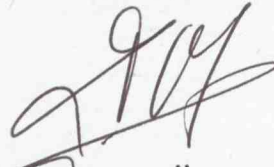
It is our sincere desire that this and some other projects could be accomplished with the British companies jointly, and with the British technology. The present satisfactory relations between our two countries, bilaterally and within the framework of the NATO, encourage us to be hopeful for the future of such a close defence industrial cooperation. You are well aware of our recent efforts to develop our defence industry. We believe that these efforts will produce positive results within few years in front of us. The British contribution, with any combination possible, for an early and satisfactory implementation of our Defence Industry Programme will be much appreciated.

Since it is not possible to express all our thoughts and plans in the contents of this letter, I decided to send my Defence Minister, Mr. Erkan Vuralhan to London and authorized him to explain directly the situation and our expectations in this regard.

I believe that a close cooperation in the field of defence industry between our countries which are implementing the same economic models, will further contribute to the promotion of our already existing excellent relations.

I take this opportunity to renew my highest considerations and cordial feelings, Your Excellency.

Yours sincerely,



Turgut Özal
Prime Minister

Her Excellency
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
London
The United Kingdom