



*File to
cc Hunt
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MSD
Co*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 June, 1989.

Dear Richard,

VISAS FOR TURKEY

The Prime Minister has signed the enclosed message to Mr. Ozal. I should be grateful if you would telegraph the text to Ankara for delivery as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter and its enclosure to Colin Walters (Home Office).

*Yours sincerely,
C.D. Powell*
(C.D. Powell)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

to



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PM3

cc. FCo
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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**

24 June, 1989.

SERIAL No. T117/89

**SUBJECT cc MASTER
OF**

Dear Prime Minister

When we met in Brussels on 30 May, we discussed our decision to introduce a visa regime for Turkish nationals and you expressed the hope that we would grant multiple-entry visas to businessmen and officials.

We have considered your request and I am glad to say that we can agree to issue multiple-entry visas to businessmen who can demonstrate their need to travel frequently to the United Kingdom. We are also prepared to issue multiple-entry visas to those holders of diplomatic passports who qualify on the same basis.

Last week, Mr. Ozceri conveyed through our Ambassador in Ankara your further request that we should exempt all holders of official passports from the visa regime altogether. We have visa regimes for a number of countries, including some members of the Commonwealth, with whom we also have close ties. We considered the possibility of making a similar concession when their visa regimes were introduced but concluded that we could not do so - not least because of the very large numbers potentially involved (in the case of India, for example, running into hundreds of thousands). I very much regret that, after the most careful consideration, we have had to conclude that we cannot meet your request on this further point. Given the way in which our particular immigration controls work (in contrast to a number of other European countries, we place greater reliance on controls at

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point of entry but have much more relaxed internal controls), such a concession would cause great difficulties for us. It would create grave problems for us in our relations with the Commonwealth countries if we were now to make to you a concession we were unable to make to them.

I am, however, glad to be able to tell you that to ease matters for Turkish official passport holders, multiple-entry visas will be issued to them free of charge and valid for as long a period as possible.

Yours sincerely

Nagant Shaher

His Excellency Mr. Turgut Ozal