

MEETING RECORD

Subject cc TQ/STE

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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 April 1990

Dear Richard,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister had a brief meeting with the Turkish Prime Minister before the Gallipoli Ceremonies today. Mr. Akbulut was accompanied by two or three officials. HM Ambassador, Ankara was also present.

Introduction

The Prime Minister recalled that she and Mr. Akbulut had met briefly at the last NATO summit. Mr. Akbulut referred to the Prime Minister's successful visit to Turkey some two years previously.

NATO Summit

The Prime Minister said that she had discussed with President Bush the possibility of a NATO Summit in the next few months, possibly in London. Mr. Akbulut agreed that, at a time when Europe's future was being shaped, such a summit could be beneficial. The Prime Minister said the main purpose would be to confirm that a united Germany would be part of NATO and to underline continuing commitment to defence. Mr. Akbulut agreed that NATO must maintain its unity and strength but we were still a long way from achieving a complete relaxation of tension in Europe. NATO would continue to have an important role.

Middle East

The Prime Minister said she understood Mr. Akbulut had recently visited Iran and would shortly be visiting Iraq. We were grateful for the Turkish government's help in intercepting a delivery of parts for the Iraqi super gun. She wondered what impression had been formed of relations between Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Akbulut said he had received a constructive and positive impression of Iranian intentions. They appeared somewhat more flexible in their approach to a peace process, although there was still a deep distrust of Iraq. Turkey had been trying for a long time to help achieve a solution. He was not expecting any sudden breakthrough. But it was clear that Rafsanjani wanted to concentrate on putting the Iranian economy to rights: and as part of this was looking to soften and normalise relations with

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the West. The Prime Minister agreed that things were going in the right direction with Iran, although only slowly.

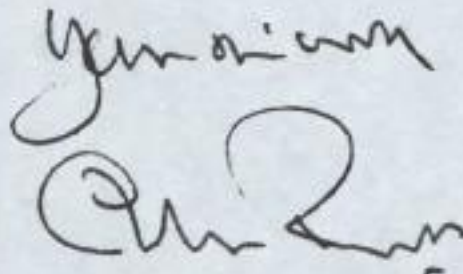
Bilateral Relations

The Prime Minister said that trade between Britain and Turkey was going well. Mr. Akbulut agreed, adding that Britain was an important investor in Turkey. He thought it was the right time for the two countries to conclude an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement. The Ambassador pointed out that the negotiations for this had been stuck at the technical level for some three years. The Prime Minister said that we should tell our respective officials to sort matters out within a fixed timescale. The difficulties would not go away by sitting and staring at them. Mr. Akbulut said that he agreed with this approach.

The Prime Minister said that we had been very grateful when Turkey had bought military radios from GEC/Marconi. We were also hoping they would accept British Aerospace's offer for a Turksat.

The meeting had to break at this point, to enable the two Prime Ministers to attend a Gallipoli International Ceremony.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence), Martin Stanley (Department of Trade and Industry) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. D. Powell', written in a cursive style.

(C. D. POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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