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DEMIREL'S VISIT TO LONDON: COVERAGE IN TURKISH PRESS

SUMMARY

1. FULL AND GENERALLY FAVOURABLE COVERAGE. VISIT PRESENTED AS FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF TURKEY'S IMPORTANCE IN NEW WORLD ORDER. PAPERS REPORT DEMIREL'S WARNINGS ON YUGOSLAVIA AND IRAQ. SOME MENTION OF BRITAIN'S ROLE IN STRENGTHENING EC/TURKEY RELATIONS. A GRUMBLE OVER INADEQUATE SECURITY.

DETAIL

2. PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S WORKING VISIT TO LONDON (23 NOVEMBER) RECEIVED FULL AND GENERALLY POSITIVE COVERAGE IN THE TURKISH PRESS. TAKING THEIR LEAD FROM DEMIREL'S STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANYING JOURNALISTS THAT HIS AIM WAS TO PRESENT TURKEY AS A VEHICLE TO PROMOTE EUROPEAN GOODS AND VALUES IN THE REGION, MANY EDITORS PRESENTED THE VISIT AS FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF TURKEY'S IMPORTANCE IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER. THE POPULAR MILLIYET NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON THE VISIT UNDER THE HEADLINE 'THANK YOU TO MAJOR FOR (PROGRESS ON) THE EC'.

3. THE PAPERS GIVE PROMINENCE TO DEMIREL'S WARNINGS ON THE RISK OF CONFLICT IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SPREADING TO MACEDONIA AND KOSOVO AND THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE BREAK-UP OF IRAQ WOULD CREATE. IN RESPONSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE OF OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT, DEMIREL IS REPORTED TO HAVE GIVEN THE STANDARD RESPONSE THAT EXTENSION BEYOND DECEMBER WAS A MATTER FOR PARLIAMENT TO DECIDE. FOREIGN MINISTER CHETIN IS CREDITED WITH PERSUADING YOU TO ASK LORD OWEN TO ATTEND THE ISTANBUL CONFERENCE ON YUGOSLAVIA. COVERAGE OF DEMIREL'S ADDRESS TO THE CBI MAKES MUCH OF THE ALLEGED INTEREST SHOWN BY BRITISH FIRMS IN USING TURKEY AS A STEPPING STONE TO THE CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS.

4. THE PAPERS NOTE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WELCOMED DEMIREL'S CLAIMS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. COMMENTING ON

DEMIREL'S BREAKFAST WITH BRITISH JOURNALISTS, ONE SENIOR TURKISH COLUMNIST EXPRESSES OUTRAGE AT A QUESTION ABOUT REPORTS OF DEATH SQUAD STYLE KILLINGS IN SOUTH-EAST TURKEY: AND ACCUSES BRITISH COLLEAGUES OF KNOWING NOTHING ABOUT TURKEY.

5. THE MASS CIRCULATION DAILY 'HURRIYET' OF 23 NOVEMBER COMPLAINS THAT DEMIREL WAS NOT GIVEN A SECURITY ESCORT FROM THE AIRPORT TO HIS HOTEL AND CLAIMS THAT HE WAS HELD UP IN THE TRAFFIC AND SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE PARTY. TURKISH SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS DESCRIBING ARRANGEMENTS AS A 'SCANDAL'. HURRIYET DRAWS A COMPARISON WITH BARONESS THATCHER'S RECENT VISIT TO ANKARA, WHEN SHE WAS TREATED 'LIKE A QUEEN'.

COMMENT

6. THE FAVOURABLE PRESS COVERAGE REFLECTS THE SATISFACTION WHICH MEMBERS OF DEMIREL'S PARTY HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE LUNCH AT NO 10. THE FACT THAT DEMIREL GOT ONTO TELEVISION MORE THAN COMPENSATED FOR THE AGGRESSIVE TONE OF THE BRITISH PRESS.

GOULDEN

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