

DRAFT

APPR:	WJB	...
DRAFT:	DDJ	...
CLR 1:	GHO	...
CLR 2:	DH	...

RELEASE IN FULL

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

SSO:DDJONES
05/02/97; EXT. 71512
S/S:WJBURNS

S/S-O:GHO'BRIEN
D:EEDELMAN

NODIS - NOT FOR ADS

IMMEDIATE ANKARA, MOSCOW IMMEDIATE, ATHENS IMMEDIATE,
YEREVAN IMMEDIATE, BAKU IMMEDIATE

NODIS

DECAPTIONED

MERCURY EYES ONLY FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE EXEC SEC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/02/27

TAGS: PREL, RGOV, TU, GR, AJ, AM

SUBJECT: ~~(C)~~ ^{Deputy} SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH MFA
UNDERSECRETARY OYMEN

1. (U) NODIS MERCURY. CLASSIFIED BY: WILLIAM J. BURNS,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, S/S, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. REASON
1.5.(D), 1.6(X5) AND (X6).

2. ~~(C)~~ THIS CABLE CONTAINS A MEMORANDUM OF THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY'S TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH MFA UNDER
SECRETARY ONUR OYMEN ON MAY 2, 1997. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
INITIATED THE CALL. THEY DISCUSSED NAGORNO-KARABAKH, THE
GREEK-TURKISH WISEMEN GROUP AND THE CFE FLANK AGREEMENT. I
ASK THAT YOU NOT PERMIT COPIES TO BE MADE OF THIS MESSAGE,
AND THAT YOU NOT DISTRIBUTE IT OUTSIDE OF THE MISSION'S
EXECUTIVE OFFICE.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DATE: MAY 2, 1997

Declassification Authority: Geoffrey W. Chapman, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS
8/7/2019

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MEMCON
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TIME: 1405 EDT

~~(C)~~ PARTICIPANTS: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND TURKISH MFA UNDER SECRETARY OYMEN

4. ~~(S)~~ OYMEN TOLD THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THAT HE HAD A LONG, PRIVATE TALK IN ISTANBUL WITH RUSSIAN FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IVANOV WHO SAID RUSSIA WAS READY TO MOVE ON NAGORNO-KARABAKH. IVANOV SAID SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS IN THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE, BUT NOW THEY WERE IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION AND READY TO MOVE. OYMEN SAID THE ARMENIANS WOULD HAVE TO BE PRESSED A LITTLE IN ORDER FOR THERE TO BE PROGRESS. OYMEN EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE AT THE RUSSIAN STATEMENT, BUT SAID HE TOLD IVANOV THAT IF THE RUSSIANS WERE SERIOUS HE WOULD TALK WITH THE U.S. AND FRANCE AND THE COUNTRIES COULD WORK TOGETHER.

5. ~~(S)~~ OYMEN CONTINUED THAT IF THE ARMENIANS COULD BE CONVINCED TO START EVACUATING THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN AZERBAIJAN AND LET THE REFUGEES RETURN, TURKEY WOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN ROADS AND RAILROADS. OYMEN SAID THAT IF IVANOV FELT MOSCOW COULD DO SOMETHING, HE THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH TRYING. RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PRIMAKOV WOULD VISIT ANKARA IN JUNE. IF THE U.S COULD PRESSURE THE RUSSIANS AND ARMENIANS, IT COULD BE POSSIBLE TO MOVE AHEAD.

6. ~~(S)~~ THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID OYMEN'S COMMENTS WERE INTERESTING AND ADDED TO HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION. HE HAD BEEN IN MOSCOW FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND HAD PARTICIPATED IN A BRIEF MEETING WITH FM PRIMAKOV ALONG WITH THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR JAMES COLLINS AND HAD MET WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES ON THE MINSK GROUP AND FRENCH MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR JACQUES BLOT. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD SHARE OYMEN'S COMMENTS WITH AMBASSADOR COLLINS, WHO WAS ON THE PLANE WITH HIM EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON, AND THEY WOULD GET BACK TO OYMEN WITH A REPORT. OYMEN NOTED THAT AZERBAIJANI PRESIDENT ALIYEV WOULD BE IN ANKARA ON MONDAY AND HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE REPORT BEFORE THEN SO THE U.S. AND TURKEY COULD USE THE SAME LANGUAGE. IF THE ARMENIANS COULD BE PERSUADED TO MOVE A LITTLE, HE COULD TRY TO PERSUADE ALIYEV TO MAKE PROGRESS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD REPORT BACK TO OYMEN BEFORE THE MEETING WITH ALIYEV ON MONDAY.

7. ~~(S)~~ OYMEN ALSO SAID HE HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH GREEK DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PAPANDREOU IN MALTA ON THE TURKISH-GREEK WISEMEN GROUP. OYMEN NOTED THIS WAS THE FIRST BREAKTHROUGH IN TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS. THE DEPUTY

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SECRETARY SAID IT WAS WONDERFUL NEWS. OYMEN CONTINUED THAT HE WOULD MEET PAPANDREOU IN STRASBOURG TO DISCUSS SEVERAL PROPOSALS MADE BY THE DUTCH. THE COUNTRIES AGREED THAT GREECE WOULD NOT ENLARGE SOVEREIGN AREAS IN THE AEGEAN AND TURKEY WOULD NOT RESORT TO FORCE, OR THE THREAT OF FORCE. OYMEN NOTED THAT RADICALS IN ATHENS CONTINUE TO RESIST THE AGREEMENT AND CAUSE PROBLEMS. OYMEN SAID HE BELIEVED TURKEY AND GREECE COULD FINALIZE AN AGREEMENT, THEN ~~TURKEY~~ GREECE WOULD RELEASE ITS VETO OF EU AID FOR TURKEY.

8. ~~(S)~~ THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD LOOK FOR WAYS TO SUPPORT AND REINFORCE WHAT TURKEY AND GREECE WERE DOING. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY CONTINUED THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN IN BRUSSELS WHERE HE GAVE A DETAILED REPORT TO NATO ON HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW. THE TURKISH NATO PERMREP HAD MANY QUESTIONS ON THE CFE FLANK AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION TO THE INFORMATION HE PROVIDED, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ALSO MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR JAMES TIMBIE OF THE OFFICE OF ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS TO GIVE HIM A DETAILED BRIEFING. IN ADDITION JAN LODAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WOULD BE IN ANKARA ON MONDAY AND HE COULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

*THE
TURKISH
PERMREP*

9. (U) THE CALL ENDED AT 1414 EDT.

10. (U) END TEXT.

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