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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Call to Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister  
Notetaker: Robert Hutchings

DATE, TIME July 3, 1989, 7:36 - 7:42 a.m. EDT  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President said he wanted to check in to follow up on the brief talk he and Prime Minister Ozal had at the NATO Summit. The President thanked the Prime Minister for his strong support for the CFE initiative, adding that the U.S. would be working hard to meet the timetable NATO had set for the Vienna talks and would appreciate Turkey's continuing support. The President also noted that Gorbachev had not been at all pessimistic about meeting the timetable. (Ø)

The President said that his main reason for calling was to express his personal concern over the situation of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. (U)

Prime Minister Ozal noted that the number of Turkish refugees from Bulgaria had now risen to 100,000. (U)

The President mentioned that he had issued a statement on June 26, condemning in very strong words the Bulgarian Government's treatment of its Turkish minority. The President said he hoped the Prime Minister had seen a copy of the statement, which the White House staff had sent to the Turkish Charge in Washington. (U)

Prime Minister Ozal replied that he had seen the statement and thanked the President for it. (U)

The President expressed the hope that international pressure would bring some relief to the plight of Turks in Bulgaria and to those who have already sought refuge in Turkey. He added that he knew what a burden this must be for Turkey and expressed once again his personal concern. (U)

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Prime Minister Ozal thanked the President, adding that there must also be considerable pressure on Gorbachev, who may be able to use his influence on Bulgaria to bring some results. (P)

The President replied that he hoped that would be the case, adding that the U.S. would weigh in again if there is an opportunity to exert influence. (P)

Prime Minister Ozal commented that the Soviets have a big problem: they are interested in the situation in Bulgaria, because it bears on the credibility of glasnost. (P)

The President, turning to another topic, asked how the results of the Greek election would affect negotiations on Cyprus. (P)

Prime Minister Ozal said it was hard to know. It appeared to him that the Greek government would be a temporary one, and could remain so for as long as a year. (P)

The President said he appreciated Turkey's support for the U.N. Secretary General's mediation efforts, which offer the best hope for a settlement. (P)

Prime Minister Ozal agreed, but expressed concern that the Greek situation will put negotiations on hold. (P)

The President concluded by saying that Ambassador Abramowitz had been sworn in and would be leaving for Ankara in mid-July, adding that he is a very able man who will do a superb job. (U)

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